An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية ،الراي،

#### South Yemen forces stage manoeuvres

ADEN (AP) - Amid increasing tension threatening to destroy Yemen's political union, southern military units Sunday staged manoeuvres claiming the exercises were in response to northern military movements. The south accused President Ali Abdullah Saleh. a northerner who leads the General People's Congress (GPC), "of responsibility for military escalation." In Sanaa, the congress dismissed the charge. Meanwhile, a committee of parliamentarians and tribal chieftains reported it had nearly completed drafting a national charter of reconciliation which it said it would present to the leaders of Yemen's increasingly fractious north and south on Tuesday. In another development, Planning Minister Abdul Karim Al Iryani told reporters he had offered to resign to protest Prime Minister Haidar Al Attas' suspension of a national census scheduled for Jan. 21. Mr. Iryani is a northerner and Mr. Attas is a southerner. "Suspending the census represents the pitch of divisioning (the country)," Mr. Iryani stated. It was not immediately known whether the prime minister would accept Mr. Iryani's resignation.

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#### Italian elections set for March 27

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ROME (R) - Italy will hold r's Hospital early general elections on March 27, state television arity. Tim quoted a government spokesut children man as saying on Sunday. The ich to keep date was set after President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro dissolved to do the parliament, which has been disgraced by Italy's political y has been corruption scandal, and asked s to reiong Prime Minister Carlo Azeglio stem in the Ciampi to stay in office until rs. Clinton (10) the landmark polls. (see page

#### Juppe in S. Africa

**IOHANNESBURG (AFP) -**French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe arrived in South Africa Sunday for a three day visit during which he is to hold talks with the country's top political figures. Mr. Juppe, the first French foreign minister to visit here in 18 years, will hold talks with President Frederik de Klerk and his South African counterpart Pik Botha before touring the Soweto black township. On Tuesday, Mr. Juppe will meet African National Congress President Nelson Mandela and the organisation's secretary general, Cyril Ramaphosa.

#### Salinas offers amnesty

MEXICO CITY (AP) - President Carlos Salinas de Gortan urged armed rebels Sunday to lay down arms and accept an amnesty plan that would cover all crimes committed in the first two weeks of their insurgency. Speaking on national television, Mr. Salinas said he was proposing legislation to grant "a general amnesty to all the participants in the violent acts" from the start of a rebeltion Jan. 1 and concluding at 11 nily-centred Mr. Salinas warned that "any me that a criminal action against the peoighout Ruy ple or against the Mexican army after this period will not have the benefit of an amnes-

#### Ahtisaari, Rehn to final round

HELSINKI (AFP) - Social Democrat Martti Ahtisaari and Defence Minister Elisabeth Rehn won through to the second round of Finnish presidential election on Feb. 6. according to first round results Sunday. Former U.N. Under-Secretary General Ahtisaari, who led opinion polls from the beginning of the campaign, won 23.3 per cent of the first round poll, election officials said, after 99.9 per cent of the votes were counted.

#### Lebanese stage protest in Geneva

GENEVA (AFP) — About 50 Lebanese marked the U.S.-Syrian summit here Sunday with a protest against Syrian and Israeli occupation of Lebanon, correspondents said. The protestors gathered in a city park to remind the world of the need for "an immediate withdrawal" of Israeli and Syrian troops, said a statement from the French-based Rally for Lebanon. "In fact no just and long standing peace in the Middle East can be reached as long as Lebanon remains occupied and the Lebanese people remain ignored," said the group representing Lebanese in France and Switzerland.

#### Nigerian soldier dies in Mogadishu

MOGADISHU (AFP) — A Nigerian corporal serving with United Nations forces has died in Somalia's capital Moga-dishu, a U.N. spokesman said Sunday, Major Chris Budge said the corporal, whose name was not released, had died "of natural causes in his sleep" late Saturday, A Somali who entered a U.S. military base in Mogadishu on Saturday night was arrested, said U.S. spokesman Colonel Steve Rausch. The man was unarmed when he was seized inside Sword Base, Col. Rausch said. Meanwhile Somali militiamen armed with AK-47 assault rifles Swarmed through Mogadishu's main sports stadium Sunday after Pakistani soldiers abandoned what was once their biggest base in Mogadishu at the stadium.

# Assad declares normal ties possible with Israel

Clinton, after Geneva summit, says Syria ready for peace accord

#### Israeli officials respond cautiously to Syrian leader's comments

GENEVA (Agencies) — Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, after more than five hours of talks with U.S. President Bill Clinton on Sunday, said normal relations with Israel would be possible under a peace agreement.

"If the leaders of Israel have sufficient courage to respond... a new era of security and stability in which there are normal peaceful relations among all shall dawn," he told a news conference in Geneva.

Mr. Clinton, speaking after Mr. Assad, said: "I believe that President Assad has made a clear, forthright and very important statement on normal peace relations... the first time that there has been a clear expression that there will be a possibility of that sort of relationship.

"In order to achieve those relations, a peace agreement has to be negotiated in good faith and carried out," he added.

"I would hope that this would provoke a positive response in Israel and that then the parties would get together and work these details out," he

President Assad, asked later whether normal relations included open borders and tourism, said: "We will respond to the requirements of peace and you know, of course, that this will hinge on the peace negotiations and is not to be resolved in a press conference."

Asked if he would sign a peace treaty with Israel during Mr. Clinton's term in office, Mr. Assad, who has now met four U.S. presidents, replied: "Yes, we are ready to sign peace now."

"We want the peace of the brave, a genuine peace which can survive and last," Mr. Assad said, adding he wanted to see a settlement in 1994. Mr. Clinton echoed the call.

Mr. Clinton cautioned that much remained ot be done. He said the two sides had to sort out the specifics among themselves and stressed the United States could not dictate the terms of any settlement.

The meeting lasted nearly three times as long as sche-U.S. officials said Mr. Clin-

ton and Mr. Assad met for four hours and 25 minutes with aides, then had a 15-minute break, then met with interpreters only for the last 50 mi-Officials said there was a

moment of tension in the meeting when Mr. Clinton brought up the Pan Am plane blown up over Lockerbie in Scotland in 1988. Mr. Clinton was apparently trying to make Mr. Assad put pressure on Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi.

The United States at first pointed its finger in the direction of Syria but later indicted two Libyans it says worked for the Libyan secret service. "The president made it clear this was, official said.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, in reaction to the U.S.-Syria summit, said Israel was ready for "brave steps" for Middle East peace.

But he questioned whether Damascus was equally pre-

Mr. Rabin was to give a detailed reaction once he was briefed by U.S. Middle East coordinator Dennis Ross, who



U.S. President Bill Clinton (right) and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad at a joint press conference in Geneva on Sunday (AF)

was due in Israel late Sunday. Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres praised President Assad's words of peace at the summit but said he did not go far enough.

"The tone was too positive to be disappointing, but it was too general to be satisfactory,' Mr. Peres told journalists.

"We are not disappointed" by Mr. Assad's comments, he said. "I appreciate the tone of the terms used but they must be translated into a more concrete language."

Mr. Peres said the government was "not entirely satisfied" because "the details were not clearly and distinctly indi-

Uri Dromi, head of the government's press office, commented: "Assad's statements on peace with Israel are a positive step, but to know the

importance of them we'll have

to know the content of his talks

with President Clinton." Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin told Israeli Radio that the U.S.-Syrian summit in Geneva was an "important development" in the search for

peace. "We would have preferred President Assad to speak explicitly of normalising ties be-tween Syria and Israel, the way President Clinton did. But the fact that he spoke up for an authentic peace is important in

itself," he said. Israeli radio said in a first reaction that the Middle East peace process will be given 'fresh impetus' by the

Clinton-Assad summit. Mr. Assad had for the first time said the search for a "real" peace was a strategic

option for Syria, it said. Israeli-Syrian peace talks are scheduled to resume later this month after a four-month suspension following the signing of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) peace

Mr. Clinton left Geneva just after 6 p.m. (1700 GMT) to return to Washington after an eight-day European journey, in which he also sought to satisfy Eastern European countries nervous about Russian nationalism and boost Russian President Boris Yeltsin, Mr. Assad left for Damas-

cus about 30 minutes later. (Continued on page 5)

# 3 sentenced to death, 7 given stiff jail terms for sedition plot

Four-month-old trial of ILP activists and students ends at State Security Court; verdict appealable

By Sana Atiyeh Special to the Jordan Times

MARKA — The State Security Court Sunday handed down three death penalties, three life prison terms at hard labour and five 15-year prison terms after the three-man military tribunal found 10 men guilty of conspiring to assassinate His Majesty King Hussein.

The verdicts were read out by the presiding judge. Colonel Hafiz Amin, in a fourhour session, ending a fourmonth trial where the 10 stood accused, two in absentia, on charges of plotting to kill the King, to change the Constitu-tion by force and belonging to an illegal organisation, the Islamic Liberation Party (ILP), aiming to topple the regime and replace it with an Islamic

caliphate state. Two of the men sentenced to death by hanging, merchants Waleed Shahin and Yousef Sabateen, were still at large when the court handed down the verdict. Ismael Al Wahwah, who remained calm throughout the trial, stood up to hear his death sentence.

Mr. Wahwah, the two fugitives, and preacher Hilal Shamout were also found guilty of belonging to an illegal group, the ILP, aiming to topple the regime through violence, while the rest were cleared of the charge.

Despite insistence by the ILP, founded in the West Bank in 1951, that it did not advocate violence to topple regim-

es, the court concluded that the group, which did not apply for licence under the political parties law, believed in using violence to change governments. The court held the party responsible for plotting the assassination and the court cited leaflets distributed by the ILP and sections of the party's political programme as evidence proving that the party advocated violence to topple regimes to be replaced with an

Islamic state. Two ILP leaders, Atta Abu Rishta and Baki Khawaldeh, were released from detention at the General Intelligence Department (GID) in November after being detained for over two months in an unrelated case, but they were not

While all the 10 accused including five cadets from Mu'ta University South of Amman and a member of the Royal Escort Unit - were found guilty of conspiring to kill the Monarch, all of them were found innocent of trying to change the Constitution due to lack of evidence, according to Col. Amin.

The court concluded that two of the accused were to shoot King Hussein in the head during a graduation ceremony at Muta University, a military academy, in June last year. Col. Amin noted that such a conspiracy was punishable by

Col. Amin handed down the sentences after the three judges took turns reading a

detailed analysis of the prosecution and defence evidence and explained how the court

reached its verdict. The judge commuted death penalties against Mr. Shamout and Mohammad Odeh Askar of the Royal Escort Unit to life in prison, while death sentences against cadets Hussein Jidi, Basel Zghoul, Ziyad Abdallat, Suleiman Ziyoud and Fouad Shdeifat were commuted to 15 years at hard

Col. Amin said that these sentences were commuted because the imam, Mr. Askar and the five cadets were taken advantage of their youth and poverty," and be-cause they did not have previous criminal records.

Most of the defendants heard their sentences quietly. Some nervously grinned. Mr. Jidi told the judge not to bother commuting his sentence, while Mr. Askar made inaudible remarks at the judges and gestured with his hand.

The court found that the confessions made and signed by the eight defendants to Prosecutor Major Mohannad Hijazi were valid and disregarded claims made by the accused that they were tortured into signing the confessions.

The suspects alleged that they were systematically beaten during their three and a half month detention at the

(Continued on page 5)

# Self-rule talks to reopen a day late

TABA, Egypt (Agencies) — The Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) autonomy talks are to reopen Tuesday, a day later than planned, in the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Taba, a Palestinian negotiator said here Sunday.

Hassan Asfour said that the negotiations were to be delayed 24 hours to allow for more consultations with the PLO headquarters in Tunis.

Economic negotiations in Paris between the PLO and Israel, due to open Sunday, have also been delayed, said the PLO representative to France, Leila Shahid.

U.S. envoy Dennis Ross was expected in Israel late Sunday to brief the Jewish state on the day's summit in Geneva between President Bill Clinton of the United States and President Hafez Al Assad of Svria. Egyptian President Hosni

Mubarak has sent a message to PLO leader Yasser Arafat on the self-rule talks, Palestinian oficials in Tunis said Sunday. The chief PLO negotiator,

Nabil Shaath, delivered the message during a meeting of the organisation's leadership on Saturday night, they said, without giving details on what he called "some progress" in the last round of talks, which ended Wednesday.

Security problems still hamper an agreement on the start of an Israeli army withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho, but the Jewish state is now offering

extra land in the Strip, he said. Dr. Shaath said Israel agreed to hand over 13.5 square kilometres of land from Jewish settlements, under the Sept. 13 accord for limited Palestinian self-rule.

the next round to resume Tuesday instead of Monday and to last until Friday.

Meanwhile Israeli army radio said the delay was requested by the Palestinian side which said it had not completed consultations in Tunis. but the radio report did not mention a new date.

Palestinian officials were not immediately available for comment. ' The last round ended

Wednesday in Taba with agreement on 35 of the 38 areas of Palestinian civilian control. But it saw little progress on security issues that include the size of Jericho to be surrendered by Israel to Palestinians, control of international border crossings connected to the projected autonomous zones and the defence of Jewish settlers.

Before flying to Tunis Saturday, Dr. Shaath told reporters the next round of talks would show whether Israel was willing to pull out of the occupied territories or not.

He accused the Jewish state of stalling and of "complicating matters" and said it might be because they were awaiting the results of the Geneva summit. Dr. Shaath also said that

Israel had agreed to reduce the size of Jewish settlements in the Gaza Strip. Dr. Shaath said the Israelis

presented a new map "on which they restore to the Palestinians some territory which previously had settlements on it."

The area of Jewish settlements in the Gaza Strip has

(Continued on page 3)



Sunday after a several-day working visit to Britain, is sworn as Regent upon his return in the presence of Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali (second from left), Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Lawzi (second from right), Lower House Speaker Taher Al Masri (left) and Deputy Prime Minister Ma'n Abu Nowar (Petra photo)

#### **Crown Prince, Princess** Sarvath return home

AMMAN (Petra) - Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath returned home Sunday after a several-day working visit to the United Kingdom, where the Crown Prince met with British Prime Minister John Major and discussed with him the political situation in the region and bilateral relations in addition to the situation in the Balkans.

During his visit, Prince Hassan addressed a conference on the economic and business implications of the Arab Israeli peace process.

Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath also participated in the meetings of the board of trustees of the Refugees Institute at Oxford University.

Prince Hassan delegated Princess Sarvath to chair the meetings of board, which was established in 1981 under he Crown Prince's chairmanship.

The institute deals with the legal, administrative and social affairs of refugees. Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath were received upon arrival by Their Royal Highnesses . Prince : Abdullah Ben Al Hussein and Ghazi Ben Mohammad, members of the Royal Family, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali, the Speakers

Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid, and senior civil and Shortly after his arrival, the Crown Prince was sworn in as

of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament, Chief

In an interview with Jordan Television, Prince Hassan said implications of the Arab-Israeli peace process was aimed at searching for a humanitarian framework for meetings to help define the position of the international community vis-a-vis human beings, including refugees, displaced persons, and

"Unless the humanitarian dimension is developed into a global concept it will be difficult for us to talk about the continuation of the peace process." Prince Hassan said.

"At level of the United Nations and organisations concerned with refugees, I have noticed a trend to shift to the comprehensive concept which we have talked about," he added. Prince Hassan also said the World Bank shares the view that regional institutions, including a regional development bank, are needed and that they should follow internationally-accepted standards in dealing with those seeking assistance in order to invest in the human dimension and

ensure their involvement in the peace process. Prince Hassan said he was honoured by being named by His Majesty King Hussein as chairman of the Royal Commission on Jerusalem Affairs. He added that the continued involvement of Jordan in maintaining and looking after the holy places in Jerusalem underlines the linkage between the Hashemites and Jerusalem.

# Saddam says Iraq to defy 'no-fly' zones

BAGHDAD (R) — President Saddam Hussein said on Sunday his country would not remain idle towards the imposition of "no-fly" zones by U.S., British and French planes over northern and southern parts of

In a defiant speech marking the third anniversary of the Gulf war over Kuwait, President Saddam said he was running out of patience on the situation in Kurdish rebel north and over the continued U.N. embargo on Iraq.

"We shall not leave our people in northern Iraq or stand hands-folded towards the perpetuation of the blockade and the violation of the sanctity and sovereignty of our air space in southern Iraq," he said in a speech televised live.

His remarks marked a departure from Baghdad's earlier stance not to try to defy the administration of U.S. President Bill Clinton. When Mr. Clinton took office a year ago. Iraq hoped to see a new chapter of relations start with the

United States. The Iraqi leader did not sav what measures he had in mind but Baghdad repeatedly defied the "no-fly" zones under former U.S. President George

Iraq's anti-aircraft defence fired at the Western planes. The United States, Britain and France retaliated by aerial and

missile bombing. President Saddam, dressed in his uniform of field marshal, said: "We have maintained patience over the continued embargo imposed on us by the will of the evils and also maintained patience over the continued flying of their planes in south Iraq and preventing our planes from flying south of the 32nd Parallel.

He added: "We had also maintained patience towards continued plundering in north Iraq and in the life of our people to the north of the 36th Parallel ... we shall not relinquish our people in northern

The Kurds, under Western protection, have set up their regional government and parliament in the north, away from Baghdad's authority.

Western planes patrol a zone in the north to protect them from attacks by Iraqi army. They also guard another zone in the south to shield dissident Shiites from air attacks by Baghdad.

President Saddam urged the West to forsake illusions on taming Iraq and called on the Western leaders to learn from what he termed past lessons.

"We repeat to all evil masters and subordinates that they should not be illusioned and miscalculate and to learn from

(Continued on page 3)

# Monks, mosque and baptism site caught in Mideast talks

By John West

JERICHO --- Christ's baptismal site, a ceremonial mosque and a mountain monastery with five Greek monks have suddenly become the front-line of Middle East peace

Palestinians insist these and other sites in the Jordan Valley be handed over with Jericho to a Palestinian selfrule authority.

Israel says no. What is to be defined as the West Bank oasis town of Jericho is one of several major obstacles blocking implementation of the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) peace accord signed last September. Talks to break the deadlock are due to resume in the Egyptian resort of Taba on Monday.

At first sight, the historic site of Christ's baptism on the banks of the Jordan River. Nabi Moussa Mosque and Quruntal Monastery seem small spoils when weighed against the risk of further delays - and ultimately the threat of a complete break-

down of the peace process. But for PLO negotiators they are carefully chosen guarantees to demonstrate that, contrary to the cynical joke of opponents of the peace plan, PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat has not given up the dream of Palestine to become mayor of Jericho. Sources close to Palestinian negotiators say each location serves at least two

functions. First, arguing for indi-vidual spots on the map is a better lever to boost Jericho's

size than the sterile duel of square kilometrage both sides have fought for several Israel started bargaining at 27 square kilometre for the

boundaries of Jericho municipality. It has since inched towards about twice that in response to PLO demands for all the area defined as Jericho by Israel's civil. "If we get all the points we

are demanding, the size of Jericho will become at least 100, maybe 150 square kilometres, said Saeb Nazeef, head of Jericho's office of the main PLO faction Fateh.

Second and more important, each new site adds fea-tures to make the composite Jericho area look more like a mini-state in the making than just the quiet country town it is

- The baptismal site would give access to the Jor-dan River, the border with Jordan. It would also include the Musa Al Alami farm project and another large chunk

of fertile farming land. The PLO cites its religious importance for Palestinian Christians. It now lies in a closed military zone.

— Nabi Moussa, where

some believe Moses is buried, would be used by the Palestinian authority as a cen-tre for its police force. PLO

The 11th century mosque, now visited by 10,000 to 12.000 people a year, could he developed as a tourist site for the millions of Muslims drawn to Islam's third holiest site in nearby Jerusalem, bringing foreign currency into the Palestinian — controlled area.

Nine kilometres south of Jericho town and the other side of the main road from Jerusalem. PLO officials say the uninhabited Nabi Moussa, close to water resources. could also become a laboratory for Palestinian resettle-

Quruntal Monastery on the Mount of Temptation is currently inhabited by five Greek Orthodox monks tending to the place where Christian hold Christ was tempted by Satan. For the Palestinian authority it would be a toehold on the hills that dominate Jericho town and the Jordan Vailey.

- If Jericho stretched to



Palestinian boys carry a comrade injured during heavy clashes with Israeli troops in the occupied Gaza Strip on Saturday (AFP photo)

Al Ouja, a dusty village eight kilometres north, it would provide enough fertile land to produce a food surplus and the Ouja "canal", a huge spring of groundwater resources mostly used by near-

by Jewish settlements. One thing the dispute is not about is population cen-

tres. Even if Israel conceded all

land the PLO is asking for, about a Palestinian state, as the population under Palestinian rule would increase only to about 30,000 from the 17,000 within Jericho's town borders — still a fraction of

the West Bank's one million Palestinian inhabitants. But each new feature of the Jericho mini-state is as symbolic for Israel, which insists the agreement is not

for the Palestinians them-

particular places but for Israel, the idea of including Jericho in the agreement was a gesture to Arafat, a symbol we were not just talking about the Gaza Strip," said an Israeli official who declined to be identified.

## **NEWS IN BRIEF**

#### Amnesty opens office in Gaza City

GAZA CITY, occupied Gaza Strip (AFP) - The human rights group Amnesty International has opened its first office in the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip, an Amnesty official said Sunday. Menno Kemminga, sent from Holland, told reporters that the Gaza office would train Palestinian personnel on monitoring human rights. But the centre will not handle the Gaza Strip itself, in accordance with Amnesty rules, leaving the task to the London headquarters of the organisation, he said. Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat approved the creatisn of the Amnesty centre in Gaza at a meeting with officials from the human right organisation on Oct. 2, said Mr. Kemminga. "Mr. Arafat pledged to respect human rights in the occupied territories when the Palestinian authority takes over," Mr. Kemminga

#### Israel approves new airport at Lod

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The Israeli government Sunday, approved the construction of a new international airport at Lod near Tel Aviv, officials said. The "Ben-Gurion-2000" project, to be completed by 1998 at a cost of \$850 million, will quadruple air traffic through Tel Aviv to a capacity of 16 million passengers per year and serve as a gateway to Asia and Africa. "The government has decided to build a new terminal to meet the great projected increase in the travellers following political developments," an official statement said.

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#### Kurdish rebels claim bus bombings

ANKARA (AP) - Kurdish guerrillas claimed responsibility for bombings on four buses that killed two people and left 15 wounded, a newspaper reported Sunday. Friday's attacks were in retaliation for a military crackdown against the guerrillas of the Kurdish Labour Party in southeastern Turkey, the leftist newspaper Aydinlik said. More than 10,000 people have died in the rebels 10-year fight for autonomy in the Kurdishdominated southeast. Over the past two weeks, the crackdown has left 134 Kurdish guerrillas and 14 troops dead. Aydinlik said the separatists claimed responsibility for the bombings by telephoning a Germany-based pro-Kurdish news agency Kurd-A. The sister of the Turkish chief of staff, General Dogan Gures, was on one of the buses, but was unhurt. The rebels said they planted bombs on the buses carrying government officials, Aydinlik reported.

#### Libya backs China over U.N. enlargement

TRIPOLI (AFP) - Libya came out Saturday in support of China's refusal to let Germany and Japan become permanent members of the United Nations Security Council. A Libyan Foreign Ministry source, quoted by the official Libyan news agency JANA, expressed "satisfaction and support" for China which said Thursday that any reform of the Security Council required changing the U.N. charter and would therefore have to be discussed by all U.N. members. "The Chinese position is that of Libya which wants a reform of the U.N. so as to give all the U.N. so as to people a role in decision-making on a fair and equal basis," the source said. JANA said that "since the U.N. has become an instrument in the service of the big powers, the small nations fear for their future." It said Libva, which has been under a U.N. embargo since April 1992 because of its alleged reluctance to cooperate in investigating two aircraft bombings, was among those "which have suffered from this situation."

#### 70 hijack attempts thwarted by Iran

TEHRAN (AFP) - Iran has thwarted 70 hijack attempts over Revolution para-military organisation was quoted Saturday as saying. General Mohammad Bagher Zolghadr, quoted by IRNA news agency, said that "all the hijackers were killed wounded or arrested" by Pasdaran Revolutionary Guards aboard the aircraft. At the end of November, a Fokker-27 chartered by the Iranian Oil Ministry was hijacked to Basra in Iraq with 38 passengers and crew. The hijacker, his wife and five children were given political asylum by Baghdad.

#### Arab Fund lends Yemen \$47 million

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The Arab Monetary Fund (AMF) on Saturday extended a loan to Yemen of around \$47 million to shore up a deficit in its 1993 balance of payments, the AMF said. AMF Chairman Osama Al Faqih and Yemeni Ambassador in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Mohammad Al Khawi signed the loan agreement at the fund's headquarters in Abu Dhabi, the AMF said in a statement. It brought to 17 the number of loans provided by the AMF to Yemen with a value of nearly \$315 million, it said. It gave no details of the agreement but the AMF extends soft-term loans to its 21 member states to help them tackle their balance of payment deficits. Saturday's loan was the first by the AMF in more than a year as it is suffering from arrears of more than \$600 million owed mainly by Iraq and Sudan. They account for nearly half the fund's capital. The AMF, the Arab League's main lending arm, has provided around \$2.4 billion in loans to members since it was created in 1976.

#### Iran announces first local helicopter

NICOSIA (R) — The first military helicopter manufactured in Iran will be put into operation by the end of the current calendar year ending March 20, an official was quoted as saying. Reza Irankhah, head of the industrial department of Iran's Revolutionary Guards, was quoted by the Iranian news agency IRNA as saying on Saturday that all parts of the two-seater helicopter except the engine were made in Iran. IRNA did not give any other details. It quoted Mr. Irankhah as saying that the Revolutionary Guards were "engaged in military research, which included building and revitalising military equipment... various kinds of boats, landing craft and cargo and military vessels were among the equipment being

# Three years on, Iraq still a force to be reckoned with

**B** Jean-Eudes Barbier Agence France Presse

DUBA! - Three years on from the start of Operation Desert Storm to liberate Kuwait from the occupying Iraqi army, Iraq is still a formidable military force. The prospect of an end to

sanctions against Baghdad. which can already see the light at the end of the tunnel, makes Iraq's neighbours distinctly In spite of the embargo the

United Nations imposed on Iraq for the first time on Aug. 6, 1990, four days after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, Iraq is still able to boast that it has one of the strongest armed forces in the world.

Western experts estimate that the Iraqi army can field some 400,000 soldiers, backed by 400 aircraft and helicopters and 2,500 tanks. Despite defeat against the

allies in the Gulf war of 1991,

Iraq's strike force still ranks alongside that of Iran, with whom it fought a war from 1980 to 1988, as the best organised and battle-hardened in the Gulf region.

That is a major headache for Kuwait and the other Gulf oil states, especially as Baghdad is still refusing to recognise the demarcation of the Iraq-Kuwait border ratified by the United Nations last year, and continues its diatribes against the Kuwaitis and the Saudis. In a recent letter to the U.N.

Security Council, Kuwait reiterated its unease about Baghdad's stance on the border dispute. The letter comes ahead of

Tuesday's routine Security Council meeting, when sanctions are almost certain to be prolonged.

Yet Iraq has never been so close to the lifting of at least some of the sanctions, having made concession after concesthe international community, including the release of Western prisoners considered by many to have been hostages.

Baghdad has in particular agreed to abide by U.N. Security Council Resolution 715, which imposes permanent checks on Iraq's capacity to

In return, the resolution allows Iraq to resume oil exports, estimated at 3.14 million barrels per day before the inva-New discussions about the

resolution are scheduled to take place at U.N. headquarters in New York shortly, and monitoring and verification mechanisms are likely to be set up in Iraq as a result.

After a six-to-nine-month trial period. Baghdad is confident that the Security Council's resolve against Iraq will

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein hinted as much in his New Year's message when he told his people that "the worst is

now over."

For the moment, allied aircraft led by the United States continue to enforce no-fly zones over northern and southern Iraq, where the Kurdish and Shiite minorities have been subjected to periodic Iraqi crackdown.

Northern Iraq, where Kur-dish separatists hold sway, has escaped Baghdad's control for more than two years.

That may not have been possible had the U.N. failed to force Baehdad to dismantle its mass destruction capability. To that end, the allied forces

began Operation Desert Storm on the night of Jan. 16, 1991. inflicting serious material and human losses on the Iraqi army in a theatre of war involving some 700,000 soldiers.

That operation succeeded in driving Iraq out of Kuwait at the end of February 1991, but left the regime intact, as had

#### sion these past few months to Fighting creates new Afghan refugee crisis

By Kathy Gannon The Associated Press

SARSHAHI REFUGEE CAMP. Afghanistan — Two weeks of vicious fighting in the capital of Kabul has driven at least 13,000 cold and frightened Afghans to this desolate, gravel-strewn camp in search of help that's been slow in

coming. "The situation took every one by surprise," said Stefan Toma, team leader for the United Nations relief efforts in the eastern town of Jalalabad, 200 kilometres east of

In the past few days, the U.N. has ferried in tonnes of food, clothing, blankets and tents. Another 2,000 badly needed tents were to arrive Sunday at the Sarshahi camp, just outside Jalalahad.

The camp's location is far from water and bitterly cold at night. Each family had cleared a little patch of land, shovelling the rocks to one side except for those they used to demarcate

their new home. At sunset, when they

temperatures began to drop below freezing, people huddled together, wrapping their children in tattered quilts, feeling abandoned and forgotten. All had terrible stories to tell

of relentless bombing and rocketing in Kabul. Some had their homes catch fire, most fled with little more than the clothes on their back. Since Jan. 1, the rival fac-

tions in the capital have been waging a vicious battle for power, wounding at least 4,000 and killing hundreds more. Tens of thousands of civilians have fled Kabul.

Heavy fighting was reported Saturday between President Burhanuddin Rabbani's forces and his two main rivals, Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar and warlord Rashid Dostum, who was a general in the former communist army.

None of the factions has made major gains, but all sides are heavily armed and appear capable of fighting on inde-

Fourteen years of war in Afghanistan have resulted in "donor fatigue" among the aid groups, and assistance now comes more slowly and in

smaller quantities. But "when people see what is happening, when they see these people who are really stuck out in the desert, they will find money somewhere."

said Mr. Toma. The refugees have traditionally gone to Pakistan, but it announced this week that it was closing its borders to new arrivals. The country still has

an estimated 1.5 million Afghan refugees, some of whom have been in the country for more than a decade. One of the Afghans at the

camp. Suraya Mirzai. screamed abuses at Pakistan's Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto for the government's decision to close the border.

"You are a woman, a mother, how could you abandon us," Ms. Mirzai screamed in Persian, tears streaming down her cheeks. She said her

Yesterday's high temperatures: Am-man 9. Aqaba 17 Humidity readings: Amman 96 per cent, Aqaba 63 per

**USEFUL TELEPHONE** 

NUMBERS

**NIGHT DUTY** 

young son was in a hospital just across the border in Peshawar recovering from sharpnel wounds and she was caught in Afghanistan when the border was sealed

"We don't want your guns, we just want to come to Pakistan to feed our children," she

Many people at the camp blamed Pakistan, the United States and Saudi Arabia for providing arms to the factions.

For years. Western and Muslim countries supplied Afghanistan's rebels with some of the most sophisticated weapons to use in their fight against the communist government and the allied Soviet

But when the groups swept the communists from power in 1992 they turned their guns on each other in a ferocious fight for control of the capital.

"Don't you see what you have made of this country?" Mohammad Arif said to a Western reporter. "You have let them destroy our country."

ZARQA: Dr. Khalii Abu Hasseur

**JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDER** 



An October 1992 photo shows Israeli tanks training on the occupied Golan Heights (AFP photo)

# Golan is at core of Syria-Israel logjam

DAMASCUS (R) - The Golan Heights, seized by Israel in the 1967 Middle East war, were at the core of Sunday's Geneva summit between U.S. President Bill Clinton and Syria's Hafez Al Assad.

Syrian troops came with a whisker of retaking the bleak and windswept plateau in 1973. Israel has always feared a surprise attack on its positions overlooking the road to Damascus.

U.N. soldiers stand between the rival forces in the area, barely an hour's drive from Syria's capital and 3-1/2 from occupied Jerusalem. Dominated from the north

of Mount Hermon — Jebel Al Sheikh to Arabs — the rocky plateau ends abruptly to the west in a sheer cliff overlooking the upper Jordan River. Before 1907 Syrian gunners on the Heights used to bombard Israeli settlers below.

Since then Israel has held a strip about 15 kilometres east from the escarpment and running 80 kilometres from Lebanon in the north to Jordan in the south.

About 18,000 Syrians live under Israeli rule and up to 15,000 Israelis have settled in the area, an important source of water.

Syria demands a total Israeli withdrawal. Israel, which "annexed" the area in 1981, says it could pull back but will not say how far or under what conditions until Damaseus

agrees to what it calls "full peace," including embassies, open borders and full trade. Zionist hopes of including the Golan in a Jewish state go

back at least of 1919. But the Heights were placed under French control as part of Syria after World War I not in the British-ruled Palestine from which Israel was carved in The map now shows a de-

militarised "area of separation," a long narrow zonenorth and south from the town of Quncitra. Syria has left the town in ruins to show the world how

the Israelis deliberately wreck-

ed it before withdrawing from

additional territory seized in the 1973 war. The U.N.-patrolled strip on the Syrian side of the 1967 ceasefire line tapers from 14 kilometres wide at the Lebanese border to 500 metres

where it meets Jordan,

Its 14,000 residents include members of the minority Druze Muslim sect. They keep in touch with relatives on the Israeli side by shouting through megaphones across 500 metres of minefields and tank traps. It is under Syrian civil control and military forces are barred.

Any peace deal acceptance to both sides would almost certainly include similar arrangements to keep their armies well apart and prevent any surprise attack.

#### JORDAN TELEVISION

PROGRAMME TWO

17:38	Le Monde Sous Mann
18:30	Magazine Local
19:00	News in French
19:15	The weekly sport magazine
19:30	News in Hebrew
29:00	News in Arabic
20:30	The Torkelsons
21:10	Thirtysomething
22:00	News in English
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Amman International Church 652526. Evangelical Lutheran Church Tcl: 824328. German-speaking Evangelical Con-The Latter-Day Saints Tcl. 654932

The Evangelical Local Church in Am

WEATHER Bulletin supplied by the Department of

Tel. 811295

It will be foggy, clouds decreasing, temperatures tending to rise gradually, and winds becoming westerly moder-ate. In Aqaba, moderate weather conditions will prevail, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm. 

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**EMERGENCIES** Reserve..... Civil Defence Emergency . . . . 199 Rescue Police . . 192, 621111, 637777 Public Security Department . 630321 Hotel Complaints ...... Water and Sewerage Complaints ...... . 897467 . 787111 (directors assistance) 010230 Central Amman Telephone 623101

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> This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Overn Alia International Airport Tel. (IIR)53200-5, where it should always be verified. ARRIVALS Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights

INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

(Terminal 1) .... Damascus (RJ) 99:30 Ritself (RJ) 99:55 Duhai, Abu Dhahi (RJ) New Dellu (RJ)

17:15 .. New York, Amsterdam (R1 18:45 ...... Bangkok (RJ) 19:06 .... Casablanca, Tune (RJ) Other Flights (Terminal 2) 

..... Dubai (EM) 61:15 DEPARTURES Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

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Istanbul (T.A. Berrut (ME) Carro (MS) Bahrain, Abu Dhabi (GF .... Amsterdam (KL)

HUAZ RAILWAY TRAIN Dep. Amman ...... X:00 every Monday Arr. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every Monday Dep. Damescus 7:30 a.m. every Sunday Arr. Amman 5:(X) p.m. every Sunday MARKET PRICES Upperslower price in fils per kg. Apple ..... Banana (Mukammar) ...... 60 / 30 a weed to work

Carrot 160/100 Cauliflower 70/40 Clementine ...... 270 / 200 Cucumbers (large) 100 / 60 Cucumbers (small) 220 / 150 Eggplant ... 180 / 60 170/100 70 / 40 Olives (green) 700/500 Orange Onion (dry) Outou (Erecu) | Pepper (hot) | 260 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 200 / 200 | 2 100 50 160 98 120 767



AGREEMENT: Jordan and the Republic of Kirghizistan Sunday concluded an agreement on cooperation in cultural and scientific fields. The agreement, signed by Minister of Higher Education Saced Tell (right) and visiting Kirghiz Minister of Higher Education Askar Kakiev provides for cultural and scientific institutions to be involved in promoting such cooperation. The two sides will exchange scholarships for higher studies in each other's institutions, expertise, information and university textbooks as well as publications and visits by students and professors. They will also organise training

courses for visiting students and conduct joint educational programmes. The Kirghiz minister expressed his satisfaction with the agreement, noting that his visit to Jordan over the past week was very beneficial to him and his accompanying delegation. Mr. Kakiev, who later left for home early Sunday, visited the King Abdullah Mosque in Amman and toured the permanent Hashemite exhibition set up by the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs at the mosque. The Kirghiz minister had toured several educational institutions and met other government officials including Minister of Education Khaled Al Omari (Petra photo)

#### Visiting Taiwanese team tours RSS

AMMAN (J.T.) - Director of the Economic and Trade Affairs Department at the Taiwanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs B.Y. Lu Sunday headed a Taiwanese delegation on a visit to the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) and was received by RSS President Hani Mulki, RSS Vice President Sa'id Alloush and several offi-

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The two sides discussed scopes of technical cooperation, and the guest delegation was briefed on RSS projects conducted in cooperation with

Taiwanese scientific institu-

They also reviewed work achieved in the project of the Electronic Engineering Section of the RSS Princess Sumaya University College for Technology regarding the equipment delivered recently as technical aid by the Taiwanese

They reached agreement on a programme for the delivery of other technical equipment scheduled to be sent by the Taiwanese government.

The delegation was briefed on the college courses as well as the equipment which RSS Mechanical Design and Technology Centre has received in the framework of Taiwan's technical assistance.

The delegation listened to a briefing on RSS training courses due to be held this year for Jordanian and other Arab

The delegation was accompanied by Peter Cheng, director of the Taiwanese Commercial Office in Amman.

#### HOME <u>N</u>EWS IN BRIEF

#### Senate to discuss House budget endorsement

MMAN (Petra) — The Upper House of Parliament today (Monday) will hold a meeting to discuss several issues including a letter by Lower House Speaker Taher Al Masri on the House endorsement of the 1994 budget. The Upper House will also discuss the Legal Committee's decisions on the revised Military Pension Law, the Provisional Law on Civil Courts and the Provisional Law of the Formation of civil courts.

#### Tourism minister visits RJ Amsterdam office

AMSTERDAM (Petra) — Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Mohammad Adwan Sunday visited the Royal Jordanian (RJ) offices here and was briefed on the development of tourism to fordan from the Scandinavian countries and the RI plans to meet increasing tourist demand. Mr. Adway praised RJ's role in promoting tourism to ordan and lauded the close cooperation between the national air carrier, the ministry and the tourism sector in Jordan, saying that such cooperation was behind the increased number of tourists to the Kingdom.

#### PSD chief honours retirees

AMMAN (Petra) - Director of the Public Security Department (PSD) General Abdul Rahman Al Adwan Sunday honoured several public simulated. Addressing the officers Gen. Adwan thanked them for their dedicated efforts and their role in maintaining security and safeguarding development.

#### University, Air Force sign communication agreement

AMMAN (Petra) - AL al Bayt University and

the Royal Air Force Corps Sunday signed an agreement under which the corps will provide 30 telephone channels linking the university site in station in Amman. The corps will also carry out the necessary maintenance on the telecommunications equipment, in addition to the main cable linking the university with the Air Force telecommunications station. Signing the agreement for the university was president Mohammad Adnan Al Bakhit and for the Air Force Corps the director of the Electronic Telecommunications Department.

#### Yarmouk U. receives Dutch book donation

IRBID (Petra) - Yarmouk University President Marwan Kamal Sunday received 230 books on archaeology donated by the Dutch government to the university's Antiquities and Anthropology Institute. The books are written in German, English and Dutch. Presenting the books was Netherlands Honoury Consul Raouf Abu Jaber who voiced hope for continued cooperation between the university and Dutch universities, particularly in areas such as history and humanitarian sciences.

#### Water resources protection competition announced

AMMAN (Petra) - Protecting, maintaining and developing water resources was the theme of a competition announced by the Council of Arab Ministers of Environment, according to the Environment Department at the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment. Under the competition an Arab award will be granted to the best work on maintaining and developing water resources, rationing their use and preventing contamination. The deadline for receiving such works is the end of April.

#### Saddam challenges 'no-fly' zones

(Continued from page 1) the lesson of the past and

absorb their meanings," he The speech was President Saddam's toughest towards the

West in about a year. They should remember that the will of the Almighty is stronger than theirs and then the will of their devils, and that the fate of criminals is an eye

for an eye and a tooth for a The Iraqi artillery will fire 21-gon salutes five times on Monday and Iraqi workers have been urged to work an extra hour "in response to the

aggression and the unfair embargo." At 2:30 a.m. on Jan. 17.

three years after the U.S.-led multinational alliance unleashed a massive missile and air attack on Baghdad to force it out of Kuwait, 10,000 (ragi youths will march in a candle procession in the streets of

Life will come to standstill for five minutes and shouts of "Allah Akbar" and chimes of church bells will echo over Baghdad.

Baghdad newspapers appeared on Sunday with lengthy articles on the merits of the mother of all battles.

"The mother of battles has humiliated America," said the government newspaper Al Jumhouriyah in a front-page editorial.

Three years after the 1991 Gulf war that forced Iraqi troops out of Kuwait and compelled Iraq to accept the dismantling of its weapons of mass destruction and longterm U.N. arms control and monitoring, Baghdad still says

it has nothing to regret. The U.N. trade sanctions imposed to punish Iraq's August 1990 invasion of Kuwait are causing widespread de-

Official statistics blame about 400,000 deaths on the embargo and U.N. officials in Baghdad say water and sanitation systems in Baghdad are now in shambles leading to outbreaks of contagious dis-

A recent report by the U.N. food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) spoke of prefamine indicators and an impending agricultural calamity

"The present mission ..notes with deep concern the prevalence of several commony recognised pre-famine indicators," said the report published in the government's English-language daily, the Baghdad Observer.

The government is telling people it is doing all it can to ease their sanctions-related suffering.

But also maintains economic deprivation will in no way force it to accept terms it describes as humiliating. "We shall not succumb to

force...we shall not lay down arms no matter the sacrifices." said Al Jumhouriya. Baghdad has rejected two U.N. resolutions to export \$1.6 billion worth of oil to pay for urgent humanitarian needs and

U.N. costs, saying the condi-

tions violate its ssovereignty.

The Gulf war and the sanctions have in no way loosened the government's grip on pow-

"The sanctions are biting ordinary people. Most of them now believe the west has made them victims of long term political interests," said a Western diplomat in Baghdad.

"Baghdad's defiance is not mere rhetoric, President Saddam (Hussein), who is firmly in control, is showing people he and nobody else could rebuild the country and keep it together," said the diplomat,

New factories, dams and canals are being inaugurated. Last month, an Iraqi construction company completed the construction of a two-tier bridge over the Tigris.

On Monday, Iraq will reopen its reconstructed Defence Ministry, levelled to the ground by allied bombing in the war.

It will shortly open Saddam Tower, the tallest in the Middle East, and also cut the ribbon of Baghdad clock, whose chimes will be heard within a five-kilometre radius.

# poultry meat

increases

Price of

AMMAN (J.T.) - Prices of poultry meat Sunday increased by nearly five per cent, according to an announcement by the Ministry of Supply.

Poultry meat sold by the Amman Municipality slaught-erhouse will rise from 1,240 fils per kilo to 1,300 fils per kilo, and that sold by the Duleil slaughterhouse will sell at 1,400 fils up from 1,360 fils per kilo, said the announcement.

The ministry attributed the price increase to the low supply of poultry meat to local markets: a normal occurrence during winter when production declines, added the ministry.

It said the cost of production is higher in winter because poultry farms require extra heating to protect chickens from low night temperatures. The announcement said the

price increase would compensate the farmers for extra expenses incurred and the loss of some of their chickens. The compensation also cov-

ers farmers' losses normally

incurred in the summer when poultry meat prices drop. The ministry said it would maintain its price monitoring and ensure that sufficient quantities of poultry meat are

available to consumers. Should there be an unjustified increase in the price. however, the ministry said it would release part of the frozen poultry meat now in store at ministry warehouses in order to meet local market

#### Trade union group elects new officials

AMMAN (Petra) - The Intraditional Federation of Arab Trade Unions (IFATU) has elected Hassan Hamam of Algeria as secretary general of IFATU and Fawzi Doss as chairman of the Central Committee of the General Federation of Jordanian Trade Unions and the committee's member Ahmad Wanas as member of the IFATU Central Council, according to Mr. Doss who has just come back from Tunis after attending the Seventh General Conference of the federation last week.

Mr. Doss said the ence made a set of recommendations desgined to ensure the independence of trade unions and enhance Arab work in the fields of labour eniture and strengthen cooperation with international trade union federations.

The conference called for intensifying efforts to defend causes of immigrant workers and strengthen their relations with their home countries.

It also stressed the need to improve the living and working conditions of workers.

Mr. Doss added that the conferees called for augmenting efforts to lift the embargo currently impossed on the Iraqi people and to safeguard the unity of Yemen.

#### Self-rule talks

(Continued from page 1)

been one of the main stumbling blocks.

Israel maintains that the settlements occupy around 10 per cent of the land in the strip, which totals 365 square

Dr. Shaath said on Thursday that the two sides had drafted more than half of an accord to implement autonomy in the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

- Heart" at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art at 6:00 p.m.
- Film entitled "Le Nom De La Rose" at the French Cultural Centre at 8:00

#### **SEMINARS**

Foundation at 6:00 p.m.

Architectural and Urban Design Programmes" by Centre at 7:00 p.m.

# U.S. commerce chief arrives today Meetings to explore enhancing economic ties

By P.V.Vivekanand Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN - U.S. Secretary of Commerce Ron Brown arrives here early today (Monday) on the first visit of a U.S. commerce chiefs to the Kingdom in more than a decade. The visit is described as aimed at exploring possibilities of enhanced economic cooperation between the U.S. and Jordan in light of the progress in the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations.

Mr. Brown, who will land at Marka Civilian Airport arriving from Saudi Arabia, is scheduled to hold a round of talks with Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali shortly after his arrival. The meeting at the prime ministry is expected to be attended by other members of the Cabinet, including Finance Minister Sami Gammoh, Planning Minister Ziad Fariz and Industry and Trade Minister Rima Khalaf, Mr. Brown's counterpart.

The U.S. Secretary of Commerce will visit a private sector firm for a firsthand look at Jordanian industry before being received by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

Mr. Brown will also address a gathering at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC) on human rights and democracy and a meeting organised by the Jordan Businessmen's Association before leaving for Israel late Monday or early Tuesday.

One of the main themes of Mr. Brown's current Middle East visit, which began in Saudi Arabia and ends in Egypt, is "business match-making" between U.S. businesses and regional firms as a means to advance economic development parallel to the peace process.

Mr. Brown has said that

U.S. businesses were wary of investing in the Middle East in the absence of Arab-Israeli peace. He argued that now that the peace process has made progress, it is time the "comfort level ... the confidence level" of American businessmen is raised in the

region to induce investments. Mr. Brown has said that Washington was cooperating with "Builders of Peace." a group of Arab-American and Jewish-American businessmen who have shown interest in investing in the occupied

At the same time, Mr. Brown is also pushing for an end to the Arab economic boycott of Israel, an idea that will find resistance in Jordan, which believes that such a move is not feasible and does not make political and economic sense at this point in time, particularly that the peace process has not yet reached a stage where an overail peace accord could be concluded among the Arabs and Israel.

"The U.S. is going to continue to push to eliminate all boycotts and I am going to press it with all the leaders with (whom) I meet, as I have done before, and as President Clinton has done," Mr. Brown said before he began the Middle East visit.

Addressing a U.S.-Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) seminar on trade in Riyadh on Sunday, Mr. Brown followed up on this theme. "The boycott issue is one

that cries to be solved," he

"I ask each of you to consider what more can we do to put the issue behind us and to enable American companies to contribute to the economic development of all in the region.

"By removing the secon-dary and tertiary boycotts —



or better by ending the boycott in all its aspects, we will make it easier for these companies to invest in the West Bank and Gaza, as well as in other parts of the Middle East.

Some of the GCC countries have already dropped the secondary boycott — of companies dealing with Israel - but an overall end to the embargo on trade with Israel and Israeli-owned companies is unlikely before the Arab League adopts a resolution rescinding the boycott.

Crown Prince Hassan has described as "economic suicide" any move at this point to consider an end to the boycott.

Analysts also point out that the boycott is in effect twoway since Israel is not allowing the export of Jordanian products to the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and is maintaining the occupied territories as a protected market for its own products.

Among the key topics for Mr. Brown's discussions in Amman are prospects for American investment in Jordan and joint ventures as well as the functions of the joint Jordanian-American-Israeli economic working group formed during Prince Hassan's visit to Washington in October.

Also explored will be an idea for an international conference on investment in Middle Eastern projects as part of measures to boost the

peace process. Answering questions from journalists from the Middle East shortly before he launched the Middle East trip, Mr. Brown promised to look into a report compiled by Jordanian businessmen on the impact of the de facto blockade on Aqaba port as part of the enforcement of the international sanctions

against Iraq. He declined, however, to be specific when asked whether Washington would be considering any specific measure to alleviate the impact on the sanctions enforce-

ment on Jordan's economy. Mr. Brown is accompanied by a U.S. trade delegation including administration officiais and representatives of American firms.

The commerce secretary has agreed that there had to be a better "equilibrium" in trade between the U.S. and Jordan, which bought more than \$300 million in American products in 1993 while exporting less than \$5 mil-

"I understand that a commercial relationship is a twoway street ... there has to be an equilibrium... and that is what we are trying to create...," he said.

The U.S. official said he

and the businessmen accompanying him were looking forward to "creative kinds of proposals" from their interlocutors in the region.

"We are going to establish direct contacts between American businessmen and Jordanian, Palestinian, Israeli and Saudi business-

#### WHAT'S **GOING** ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

#### **EXHIBITIONS**

- \* Exhibition on the art of architecture at the French Cultural Centre.
- ☆ Photo exhibition by artist Muwaffaq Al Sheikh at the Royal Cultural Centre. ★ Art exhibition by artist Sadik Kwaish entitled
- "Talisma" at Baladna Art Gallery. ★ Exhibition of Iraqi books
- at the Royal Cultural Cen-A Permanent exhibition of
- contemporary Arab artists and "Chair" exhibition at Darat Al Funun of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Luweibdeh.

#### FILMS

- ☆ Film entitled "Angel
- Short film entitled "Clumy" at the French Cultural Centre at 8:00

# LECTURES &

A Seminar entitled "The Lessons To Be Learnt From The Gulf War" by Dr. Fabed Al Fanek, Dr. Ya'coub Zayadin, and Mr. Salah Al Mukhtar at Abdul Hameed Shoman

★ Lecture entitled "The

Development of Early Islamic Jerusalem: A Study Through Computer-aided Dr. Mohammad El-Asad of Al Al Bait University at the Friend of Archaeology

#### Forestry official urges public to help in afforestation project be planted with at least 100,000 The ministry urges the pub-

lic to undertake a collective

'action to plant trees in and

around cities and create a heal-

thy atmosphere for the country

and its people, said Mr.

be planting trees in parks,

urban and rural regions, along

Noting that the ministry will

Muheisen.

try of Agriculture Forestry Department Sunday urged the while to plant trees and fulfil His Majesty king Hussein's call to green Jordan by the year

Department Director Azzam Muheisen said that the creation of Al Hussein National Park near Abu Alanda southeast of Amman was part of the ministry's drive to green the country and stem deserti-

fication. He announced that the Arbor Day celebration at the national park located in the district of Wadi Al Qattar. which was to have been held Saturday, would now be held today (Monday).

roads and streets and in other areas. Mr. Muheisen said there was more rifeed, than ever to safeguard the country's future by protecting the environment for future generations.

He appealed to all public and private institutions to contribute to the afforestation

Al Hussein National Park.

trees by individuals, clubs and organisations through joint errorts spearneaged by man Municipality and the Ministry of Agriculture. Noting that its own afforestation programmes

were continuing year-round. the ministry said in a statement that nearly 80 per cent of the total area of Jordan was desert and only one per cent of that area was covered by forests. it said most of the tree

planting projects take place on state-owned land, on the hills overlooking the Jordan Valley and along areas considered essential to halt desertification from the east.

#### set up on a 1,247 dunums, is to Rural affairs ministry to assist local councils in handling financial, administrative burdens

AMMAN (Petra) - The main concern of the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment at present is to find means to enable local council to cope with their growing financial and administrative burdens, said Minister of Municipal Affairs Ahmad

Akaileh. The municipal and village councils should be assisted in collecting an estimated JD 4.2 million due from citizens in order to continue their work and provide municipal ser-

vices, said Mr. Akaileh. The ministry will help the councils budget for their capital and current expenditures, improve methods of collecting dues from local residents and provide advice and guidance on obtaining loans from banks to avoid extensive debts, said

In view of population growth in urban and rural regions, said Mr. Agaileh, it is natural to witness the municipal councils' burdens increasing not only in terms of providing services, but also in initiating nd implementing development

from the public in annual and property taxes.

The minister also said that the finance ministry will be approached to help collect at least JD 22 million in dues

Referring to the projects

carried out by the local coun-

cils in 1993, Mr. Akaileh said

they totalled JD 11 million in

various governorates, but he

added that these councils obtained JD 6.1 million from the Cities and Villages Development Bank (CVDB) in order to be able to implement most of these projects.

Mr. Akaileh said the minis-

try was preparing a new muni-

cipalities law which would divide the local councils into four categories, taking into account the size of the population. Under the new law, he said, major municipalities will emerge grouping smaller towns and population settlements located close to one another,

said the minister, who also

noted that taxes and other dues

charged by these councils will

be increased under the new law

to finance council projects.



VISITING CARE FACILITIES: A twomember Dutch team representing the Stitchting Nederland Society for the Care of the Mentally Handicapped visited Aqaba and held a training course for the teachers of Al Thagher Local Society for the care of the mentally retarded and

the Princess Haya Centre for the Deaf. The

course included lectures on visual and perception skills and on-the-job training. The Dutch society has been providing assistance to Al Thagher Society for the last three years. The visitors toured Wadi Rum and the Nabatean city of Petra as well as the main attractions of Agaba and met with local officials.

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#### The issue beyond 1994 budget

LOWER HOUSE of Parliament deputies are not to blame for asking the government to improve the salaries of civil servants, to provide health insurance for all citizens and to reduce taxes at the same time. These are popular demands everywhere, not only in a country like Jordar, with limited resources. The deputies though might sound unrealistic. Yet looking at the result of voting — 56 for the draft budget and 20 against — the number of deputies who chose to give the government a vote of confidence over its fiscal policies has increased by 15 deputies since the Majali government won the first vote of confidence in early December.

However, as prime minister Abdul Salam Majali has put it, the government would need several times of the budget to meet deputies' demands for schools, roads, hospitals and other services for their constituencies. Dr. Majali's cynicism should not blind us to the fact that most of the deputies' demands are legitimate and in some cases even urgent. The government itself has found that 21 per cent of Jordanian families are under the poverty line and that unemployment is above 15 per cent. These figures in themselves are alarming. There is also no denial that a sizeable number of the civil servants themselves are among the poor, and that most of the unemployed aspire for jobs in the government.

The government and the people's representatives seem to be avoiding to tackle the real issue: That the Jordanian economy has for decades thrived on external aid and, in the last two decades, on expatriate remittances and that both sources of income had to do with the role Jordan was expected to play in the region. Now that roles are changing, we in Jordan bave to adapt and rely on ourselves. The economic crisis that successive governments have skillfully managed to steer us through must have tought us a valuable lesson: Dependence on external financial resources is a costly matter.

That is why our honourable deputies ought to look beyond the immediate implications of this year's fiscal budget and any hopes for imminent Arab reconciliation and resumption of Arab aid. Jordanians have over the years proven to be shrewd politicians and businessmen. What they need is to be freed from the shackles of government bureaucracy in order for them to excel and create wealth for the nation. What deputies and government alike should aim for is a self-sufficient Jordan free from all the constraints that come with foreign, or Arab, aid. Towards this goal this year's budget has been a step in the right direction.

#### **ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES**

IT IS in an atmosphere of optimism that presidents Clinton and Assad meet in Geneva where all eyes are turned to watch for some progress or momentum to be given to the Middle East peace process, said Al Ra'i Sunday. It goes without saying that the Syrian president would present Mr. Clinton with Syria's views and demands of a complete Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Golan Heights so that a permanent peace can be achieved with Israel, said the daily. On the eve of the meeting. Syria coordinated its stand with Jordan and the other Arab parties involved in the peace process and it is reasonable to believe that the Syrian leader would also carry to Geneva the views of the Arab parties as a whole, added the paper. A United Arab stand would no doubt give the Arabs a strong bargaining position with the U.S. president who, in turn, can wield influence over the Jewish state and demand compliance with the U.N. resolutions, it added. The paper said that Syria's position and those of the Palestinians and Jordan and Lebanon are quite clear as the Arabs are demanding an end to occupation in exchange for peace with Israel. Israel's procrastinations and delay in implementing U.N. resolutions can change nothing and would not force the Arabs to give up their rights and their demands for end of occupation, said the paper. The paper expressed hope that Mr. Clinton would bring pressure on Israel to comply with the U.N. resolutions on

SAWT AL SHAAB daily described as a healthy sign the len thy debate in Parliament over the 1994 fiscal budget, that the discussion was a big sign of democratic e. The four-day debate, which ended with the budget ent, was a model of democratic exercise and the high promiled in the past days reflected the instring sound practices by the the country's finances, rister. Abdul Salam es not negate the

# Strength for the Arabs lies in unity and democracy

By Izzat R. Dajani

There is nothing I learnt to dislike more than certain proverbs, mottos or names for quasi-institutions that signified a lot but ended up meaning nothing. These include: The New Arab Order. Arab Cooperation Council. Council of Arab Economic Unity. Arab body and Arab unity. For many years, slogans substituted the truth and masked the reasons that led to the retardation of Arabs in nearly every aspect of development, be it the economic, military, cultural, scientific or social.

The Arab World has fallen in its own and trap by the persistent description of its past military failures as successes and victories. It persisted in the flawed economic, political and social dimension which in turn carried very serious consequences that helped further deteriorate the fragile Arab body. The real problem has been the constant masking of the many structural cracks leading in turn to diminishing hopes improvement or measured advancement.

We live in a world where many of its nations achieved tangible results and rose to super levels of power. Ironically, much of this was possible only after these same nations suffered military defeats that carried massive destruction with varying degrees of damage to the many structural orders in any society. There are many examples to draw conclusions from and include countries such as Germany. Japan and Italy. However. military defeats contributed dramatically to economic, political and social successes in these nations, as shortfalls were seriously addressed after the war. Such factors had never been addressed, analysed or even considered in the Arab

It is imperative that one should look ahead while drawing from examples and incidences in the past. This is important so as not to hinder the process of improvement and advancement towards a better self and an even better

power is composed of five different resources: military. economic, political, cultural, and technological and scientific. When a country has the full range of power resources together with the will to use them and the ability to pull them together, then that country possesses the criteria of a superpower. Only the United States at present can pass for that as all the potential challengers are deficient in some respect regarding these power resources. Russia and East European countries lag economically: China's political sys-

tem is frail: Europe lacks political unity: Japan is deficient military, with a culture that does not carry a global appeal. It is equally important that power resources also form the seeds and define the ingredients of unity; the more the resources and the ability to pull them together, the stronger the chances for unity within a nation or group of nations.

Ironically, the Arab World constantly speaks of language and religion as its two main resources for power and unity. although these two criteria are not so defined by the international strategists - valid example is the European Community which is made up of countries with different languages and varied forms of Christianity and religions, but united in interest. However, we are willing to accept the argument that the Arab World remains united in language, religion and possibly culture. But it definitely lacks almost every other resource of power - its science and technology are imported and so is its military hardware and capability: there is vast disparity in wealth without any clearly defined regional cooperation, a mechanism can be started so as to provide momentum that incorporates in the process many forms of cooperation in various fields. These may include finance. education. industry. agriculture and others. To simply focus on geographic unity as the sole aspiration of Arabs will certainly

vide the required human and

capital impetus. Through Arab

nullify this mechanism and its resulted momentum and render the whole process futile. One must always elevate the possible above the ideal to make things work. The Arab World needs to

embark on massive plans for further building its infrastructure. This requires immense spending and high levels of planning and allocation of resources, whether scarce or in abundance. The Arab World is characterised by unfair and uniust distribution of wealth. Due to colonial, "artificial" divisions and transparent boundaries, the Arab World was partitioned in a most bizarre manner. Nearly 95 per cent of Arab wealth is controlled by

"Democratic rule is the vital artery for improving the Arab body. Many lessons in democracy and humanity can be drawn from Arab and Islamic history which can apply closer to the area and its needs than simply introducing and adopting western ideas."

outward-looking economic policies; total disunity is prevailing politically; Arab culture is alien to the industrialised West, and Islam is totally misunderstood and misrepresented. There is a compelling need for the Arab World to start building its power resources and pulling them together with the added advantages of the one-religion, onelanguage phenomenon. It needs to find a mechanism that works, away from the onenation, one-body slogans. Maybe it needs to think of itself as a group with common destiny and shared interest the Group of Arab Nations (GAN).

In this context, the Arab League was a dying body from the day of its onset. It was founded under the auspices of the colonising powers and its charter contributed more to diversity than unity. The league received its most serious and possibly fatal challenge from the Gulf war.

Henceforth, GAN needs to focus on Arab unity through cooperation and shared interest rather than pure geographic welding. Ostensible gains have to supersede any differences, and regional interests replace narrowly-drawn national benefits. The overall Arab economy contains im-

about 5 per cent of the Arab people. To further compound this, much of the Arab petrodollars are fed back into the industrialised world financial systems and institutions. Arab investments fell far short of contributing to Arab advancement, and led to widening the gap between rich and poor. Bitterness characterised this outcome. GAN needs to establish and Arab Development Fund financed by petro-dollars from rich Arab countries, so as to support the poor majority to build its infrastructure. It needs to implement projects of development across the Arab World. It needs to invest in various Arab countries so as to improve particular skills, naturai resources or human capabilities that characterise each country and control each investment. It is ludicrous that the great majority of Arabs have to live ascetically whilst Arab money is deposited in the industrialised West. The status quo between the haves and have-nots certainly needs addressing.

We live in a global world where many countries share interests and drive benefits. It is also a world where the big and powerful control the destiny of the small and weak. No one Arab country, no matter how vast its resources are, can

claim a self-chosen destiny in this global environment. But the whole Arab World in its unity can. It can deal with nations on shared interests and benefits. It can demand respect as equal. It can impose its ideas, demand its security and seek out justice. The Gulf war confirmed the asininity of the reliance by many Arab countries on supposedly "eternal friends" in this world.

GAN needs to consider many more issues. It needs to establish a defensive mechanism against the "modern-era colonialism". It needs to transfer technology and adapt it to suit its requirements in building its institutions and designing its future better. By simply importing technology from the industrialised West, the Arab World will be permanently dependent on countries responsible for such technology. It also has to seriously consider this as a priority issue for Arab independence. This secures henceforth the livelihood of future generations and guarantees dignified living.

A strong group of Arab nations guarantees there can never be global silence to ignored Arab rights, lost humanity and denied justice. The plight of the Palestinians must never be ignored as Palestine was, and will always be, an integral part of the Arab World, and its people can and should contribute to its advancement and cohesion.

Last but not least, GAN has to provide the foundation for democracy and its application in the Arab World. This is the biggest, probably most serious challenge of all. Much of the prospective and potential leadership is destroyed in the undemocratic process in most parts of the Arab World. This leaves a continuous vacuum as countries do not provide the basis for people to carry the responsibility and continue the process where others' accomplishments end. People have to be represented as much as authority is recognised for the benefit of the nation as a whole. By centring power with the elite, social and technological advancement is curtailed as this minority grouping constantly denies the population what may form a source of challenge to the elite's many self-bestowed privileges. To make society advance, all its members should perform their role as best they can. This performance is the biggest source of strength for every Arab country.

Democratic rule is the vital artery for improving the Arab body. Many lessons in democracy and humanity can be drawn from Arab and Islamic history which can apply closer to the area and its needs than simply introducing and adopting western ideas.

# JORDAN TIMES, MONDAY, JANUARY 17, 194 The trap of safe havens for Kurds

By Michael Jansen

THREE YEARS after the launch of the Gulf war which led to the establishment of a "safe haven" for Iraq's Kurds in the north of the country, the western-protected area is neither "safe" nor a 'haven''.

A brain drain caused by the emigration of educated townsmen and professionals from "Free Kurdistan" has forced the Kurdish authorities to impose stringent restrictions on people wishing to leave. It is ironic that the Kurdish administration, which claims to be democratic, has had to follow the undemocratic example of Baghdad and require inhabitants of the "haven" to acquire an exit permit before travelling abroad via Turkey

Middle class families have been leaving in large num-bers because of both economic hardship and insecurity.

"Free Kurdistan" is a poor, mountainous region which has no major natural resource to earn it the foreign currency it requires to buy the capital and consumer goods it needs. The area has been ravaged by decades of warfare and much of its infrastructure destroyed. To make matters worse, the Kurds live under a double blockade: the first imposed by the western powers against Iraq through the U.N. sanctions regime and the second by Baghdad to punish the Kurds for their rebellion against the government and their alliance with the West. The 2.2 million Kurds (out of a total Iraqi Kurd population of 4 million) who live in the "haven" suffer from lack of basic foodstuffs and medicine, shortage of electric power and massive unemployment due to a low level of economic activity.

The economic situation has grown steadily worse because western donors, experiencing "compassion fatigue" and loss of interest in a chronic crisis, have cut financial assistance to the "haven" Furthermore, since last summer, the "total war" between the Marxist Kurdish Workers Party (the PKK) and the Turkish army has disrupted the illegal transit trade in Iraqi oil smuggled to Turkey which provided "Free Kurdistan" with an independent income.

The war in eastern Turkey has spilled over into northern Iraq. The Iraqi Kurds have received thousands of refugees and fighters driven across the frontier by the Turkish army seeking to suppress a separatist insurgency

exacerbated by the example of "Free Kurdistan" in northern Iraq. Since October, Turkey has been carrying out sporadic cross-border raids either against alleged PKK guerrilla camps or villages where Turkish Kurds have taken refuge. In December, Ankara announced that it had killed nearly 1,000 Kurds on the Iraqi side of the border (More than 10,500 have been killed in southeastern Turkey, where about half of Turkey's 10-12 million Kurds live, since the PKK began its revolt in 1986 and 4,000 during 1993. In the first week of January, Ankara suspended plans to cut by one-third its 600,000-strong armed forces because of the insurgency.)

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Tehran opened up a second, eastern front by attacking dissident Iranian Kurds living in villages in Iraqi Kurdistan near the Iranian frontier.

And, at the end of December, there were several days of fierce fighting in the heart of "Free Kurdistan" at, its two main towns, Erbil and Suleimaniyah, between heavily-armed fighters of the Iranian-backed Kurdish Islamic Movement and of Jalai Talabani's Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (the PUK), which shares power with Massoud Barzani's Kurdish Democratic Party (the KDP). The violence gave rise to an exchange of accusations between the two parties, complicating their already difficult relationship: the PUK attacked the KDP for trying to take advantage of the situation while the KDP criticised the PUK for carrying its fight with the Islamists to the

It is an historic irony that it should have been the British Prime Minister, John Major, who proposed the policy of "safe haven" and aerial exclusion zone to protect Iraqi Kurds after the Gulf war because it was a predecessor who first authorised British aircraft to bomb insurgent Kurds after World War I. It is a political irony that Ankara should be threatened by local Kurdish separatists who have taken their cue from Iraqi Kurds across the border whose separatist ambitions would amount to nothing without the support of the western powers based at Incirlik airbase in Turkey. And it is a tragic irony that hapless Kurdish civilians, in northern Iraq, supposedly "safe" in the "haven", and in eastern Turkey, should pay the price of a western policy designed to destabilise the Iraqi regime of Saddam Hussein.

# When nothing is left to lose, violence may break loose

By Zeid Zalatimo

Watching the news on Friday night one could not help but remember David Koresh, spiritual leader of the Branch Davidians and his hold up in Waco, Texas last winter. The Friday night siege was in Hebron, where the alleged leader of the Islamic Resistance Movement for the Hebron area was hold up with three other alleged Hamas members.

The main similarity of this siege with Waco is the use of force by the authorities. In Waco. David Koresh led his followers to mass suicide, using some Biblical references to ensure them eternal salvation. His followers, numbering over 100, were armed to the teeth with automatic weapons and explosives. The Branch Davidian compound was besieged after agents from the Narcotics and Firearms Administration were attacked while issuing a search warrant for illegal pos-



ers made American law enforcement agents look bad on

The Israeli army was not

by helicopter. Four Palestinians were killed, all suspected

Hamas activists. Palestinian activists have

ful" transition to the semiautonomous enclaves. This is quite consistent with Yitzhak Rabin's Iron Fist policy which use of such weapons is significant in that it goes beyond conventional Israeli use of force. I believe it marks the

plishes the intended. Bailing out from too much bloodshed would be considered aberrant behaviour for both sides of this

Going back to Waco, American law enforcement agents issued Koresh and his followers an ultimatum; get out of die. Similarly, the Israeli anny heed to Hamas and other Palestinian factions is give up or die. However, unlike Hamas, the Branch Davidian's were a tiny fringe of the American society, most of whom died in the Waco siege. Hamas is far from being a fringe in the Palestinian community. Recent estimates put Hamas's support amongst Palestinians in the occupied territories at 30 per cent. What will the Israeli army do with this 30 per cent add to it supporters of other Palestinian factions that are actively opposed to occupation and to the peace accords. Will they too have to give up or die? Constructive steps towards peace do not include barbaric military sieges and placing entire towns under house arrest. They do not include shooting twelve demonstrators in Gaza (Jan. 15, 1994). Israel and the PLO can no

longer afford to overlook the growing number of militant opponents to the peace accords. Waco-style sieges will lead to Waco-style results and are a counterproductive method of dealing with such elements, particularly at a time when many feel they have nothing to lose. Because, in the final analysis, for many activ-

businessman. He contributed the above comment to the Joi-

he initiated as defence minister session of firearms. Two agents quite as patient as its American embarrassed the Israeli army beginning of a new phase of at the beginning of the intifawere killed, three were incounterparts. Friday's siege for the past four year, and Israeli occupation policy: to da, in 1987. This policy has jured. What followed was a more significantly during the lasted for one hour and a half. use full, and decisive military two-month-long stand off in the attack on the house was last two years. During last basically been the "break their attacks against Palestinian which the compound was surbone vill there are no more to year. Hamas activists have swift, and deadly. Other than activists. In which case we can the outcome, it is unclear exbeen engaging the army in break' doctrine which has govrounded by armored vehicles expect to see a significant armed conflicts sporadically and hundreds of law enforceactly how the events unfolded. erned Israc'i policy in the occuescalation of Palestinian pied territories throughout the ment agents. An Israeli army spokesman but with increasing resilience. attacks on Israeli targets and Like the Hamas held up in as the deadline for Palestinian stated that the "terronsis" had brutal Israeli counterattacks. which the Madrid peace conference was based. Now, in the post-intifada, Hebron, the images coming escaped from a military prison semi-autonomy approaches. In Palestinian activists (Hamas response, the Israeli army is from Waco resembled a warand were hiding in the house pre-semi autonomous stage, and other factions) have the Israeli army is carrying out also increasing the level of proven that they do not scare front. Law enforcement agenwhich was subsequently surrounded by the Israeli military. brutality with which it combats easily. They are highly moticies were obsessed with David attacks on activists, such as Koresh. One could not help any acts of resistance. The Contrary to army reports. shoot-to-kill, targeting any vated and have an equally high masked activists, deploying but question the reasons beneighbours say that the house army lit the night over Hebron propensity to risk their lives for agents in "Arab" garb to act as with flares, placed the town hind the attack and the subsewas rented by engineering stuwhat they believe in. There are under total curfew, attacked a fifth column during demonquent siege of the compound. dents from Hebron Technical no indications that most other than the embarassment College, who "...surrendered Palestinian factions in the the house held up by the activstrations, and now the Hebron Koresh caused the Narcotics after 90 minutes with their ists with helicopter artillery siege. The implications of the occupied territories will back ists. Jihad is a viable option. hands up, and were gunned and mortar, shoulder-launched down from armed struggle. and Firearms Administration. siege are dangerous. It is the whose agents were not aderockets and automatic fire. down," as one eyewitness said. first time since 1967 that the Similarly, the Israelis have r e, the year r paper stressed In any case, what ensued was a Friday was a fantastic dis-The writer is an Amman-based Israeli military has used air and proven to be very goal quately prepared to deal with n has made may of the extent to which the mortar to attack Palestinians in oriented, in that they follow a barrage of Israeli artillery and the Branch Davidians, More in be proud. mortar attacks, from land and IDF will go to ensure a "peacethe occupied territories. The importantly. Koresh's followstrategy through till it accomby the example of the correction of the correcti Carrying
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#### Peres said trying to keep Jerusalem Post in check

SHIMON Peres, the Israeli foreign minister, has declared war on the right-wing Jerusalem Post newspaper by cancelling 1,100 ministry subscriptions, because the paper is undermining the government's peace efforts, writes Sarah Helm. Mr. Peres, the chief architect of the Gaza-Jericho accord, has been angered by the antaognistic attitude taken by the paper to Israel's deal with the Palestine Liberation

Mr. Peres is not concerned about the Jerusalem Post's influence on domestic public opinion, but rather the effect it may have on opinion abroad. As the only Israeli English-language daily, it is an international opinion-former. The paper has been distributed free at Israeli embassies.

The Jerusalem Post, which used to have a dovish editorial line, supporting the Labour Party, moved to the far right under Conrad Black, who bought the Post in 1989 when the hawkish Likud party was in power. Mr. Black also owns the Daily and Sunday Tele-

Publicly, the foreign ministry insists the subscription cancellation is simply a cost-cutting exercise. However, ministry sources close to Mr. Peres saw there are strong political motives. Mr. Peres is reported to be "furious" at the editorial line taken by the paper. "His view is - why should. we help the enemy," according to one offical.

Israel is keen to bolster in-

ternational support for its peace efforts and Mr. Peres has encouraged diplomats to improve public relations.

While policy-makers at the ministry have sold the deal as a historic turning point, the Jerusalem Post has attacked it as a sell-out to the "terrorists." Three weeks ago, the Post reported that the government was planning to give back all the land seized in the 1967 war to the Palestinians. Yitzhak Rabin, the prime minister, insists he will not return Israel to its pre-1967 borders. The story was believed by the foreign ministry to have been planted in order to stir up Jewish opposition abroad to the peace

Mr. Peres was also said to be furious at the prominence given by the paper to protests against the accord by ultra-Orthodox Jews. The Post opposes the return of any land to the Palestinians and refers to the occupied territories as "Judea, Samaria and Gaza" --the term used by the former

Likud government. MPs from the right-wing Likud party have accused the foreign ministry of gagging the press. David Bar-Illan, who has been the Post's editor for a year, said he would be "extremely disappointed" if the decision were a political one. and insisted that his editorial policy was balanced and objective. When Mr. Black bought the Post in 1989, 30 journalists walked out in protest — The Independent.

#### 3 sentenced to death; 7 jailed

(Continued from page 1)

GID before they were transferred to Zarka military prison in August and that they were coerced by GID officers into signing confessions given to Maj. Hijazi.

The court, however, said that the testimony of the clerk who wrote down the defendants' statements proved that only Maj. Hijazi, the clerk and one defendant at a time were present during the prosecution questioning, contradicting claims by the accused that a. GID officer was present and issuing threats during the questioning.

The judges also said that testimonies by other witnesses who were detained at the GID, including Mr. Abu Rishta and Mr. Khawaldeh, who denied they were beaten or abused during their detention at the GID, made the panel conclude that there was no evidence to prove the defendants were actually tortured. The court also noted that the doctors who checked the defendants for signs of torture in October did not prove that they were physi-

cally abused. More than two dozen men were detained at the GID in April and May in connection with the plot, but most of them were released.

The presiding judge reminded the defence that the verdict could now be appealed. Defence lawyers later told reporters that they would immediately appeal the verdict in the court of appeals, a civil court, where the whole case would be beard again.

This would be the first security case to be appealed since

Parliament last year amended the State Security Court Law to allow for appeal of the court's verdict. The old law made the military court's verdict final, unless the King

issues a pardon. The verdict was read amid tight security where more than two dozen heavily-armed military police lined the courtroom. while dozens of others surrounded the premises of the courthouse. Blue-clad riot police also stood outside the gates of the court, preventing He women relatives of some of the defendants from getting too close to the courthouse.

Mothers and sisters of the accused men, who were prevented from attending the final session, began screaming and crying in the street when they heard of the court ruling.

"This government is unjust may God curse you," wailed one mother as another son tried to calm her down.

Last week, nine men related to some of the defendants were detained following fist-fights between them and police at the court after they protested the court's hearing of the clerkwho testified that no GID officer was present during the prosecution questioning. Security sources said the nine were still in detention, and, though two are expected to be released, the others are charged with contempt of

Before the court read out the detailed verdict, defence lawyers insisted that the prosecution had failed to prove any of the charges against their clients, and continued to deny the charges.

#### Assad: Normal ties possible

(Continued from page 1)

The American president said he was confident that progress would be made at the resumption of talks between Israel and Syria in Washington next

Asked if Mr. Assad had provided assurances he was willing to give Israel open borders, free trade and diplomatic relations, Mr. Clinton said: "The short answer is yes."

Israel has demanded such assurances before it offers any "territorial concessions." The Jewish state has long insisted it would not turn over the Golan Heights, strategic land it siezed from Syria in the 1967 war.

Syria's immediate goal is the return of the Heights. The United States and Syria

have a complicated relationship: although Syria is on the U.S. State Department's list of nations that support terrorism," Mr. Assad worked to help free American hostages held for years in Beirut and backed the U.S.-led coalition against Iraq in the 1991 Gulf

Mr. Clinton and Mr. Assad spoke of each other in complimentary terms, with Mr. Assad paying tribute to the American leader's pursuit of peace in the Middle East, and Mr. Clinton noting the Syrian leader had demonstrated his longstanding reputation for stamina in their talks.

Mr. Clinton said Mr. Assad

had convinced him he was will-ing to assume a leadership role in achieving peace in the Mid-dle East. At the same time, Mr. Clinton said there were "differences between us" but they had not been discussed

directly at the meeting.

Mr. Clinton said U.S.
Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Syrian Fore-ign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa would take those issues up, including U.S. charges that Syria supports "terrorist"

He also said there were no discussions about the details for any withdrawal of the 40,000 Syrian troops in Leba-

A senior U.S. official said what Mr. Assad had said on normal relations with Israel

broke new ground
"What the Israelis have been waiting to hear is the word 'normal'," he said. "The effect that the words will have is to kick forward the (Syrian-Israeli) talks when they resume in Washington next week," he

added. The senior U.S. official. pressed on whether Mr. Clinton and Mr. Assad went into details on normal relations. said: "To expect him (Assad) to go beyond that at this stage is unrealistic. He in the past has been extremely reluctant to do any of these things. And the fact that he did it today is an important step in the pro-

# The other side of human rights: tidal wave of unfit water

By Waleed Sadi

Countries and peoples are by and large obsessed by political dimensions of human rights at the expense of other human rights aspects that could be sometimes infinitely more pressing. A good case in point is the water situation in Gaza Strip which apparently is not drawing much attention from any side. including the Israelis who govern the area as well as the Palestinian leadership which aims to acquire effective control

It has been brought to my attention at a recent international conference organised by Israeli scientists that due to extensive well drillings in the Gaza area, the water condition has deteriorated to such an extent that it threatens epidemics, and possibly kidney failure on a mass scale. It seems that the water quality there has deteriorated considerably in recent years due to excessive drilling brought about by changing the chemical composition of the water.

Of course, the Israeli side would put the blame on the Palestinians for overdrilling. In part, they are correct, to the extent that the Palestinian leadership should have shown some degree of appreciation of the problem by raising the issue with their own people as well as with the Israeli occupying authorities. While the primary responsibilities with the Israeli government, it cannot be overemphasised for allowing, in the first place, the water situation in Gaza Strip to deteriorate to such an extent as to require, extensive drilling. There can be no escape from the conclusion that the PLO itself should shoulder part of the responsibility.

When the Israeli scientists attending the above-mentioned conference talked about the problem as looming dangerously on the horizon, none of the Palestinian or other Arab

participants responded in any manner as to suggest the least concern. In a way, this Arab disrespect for the quality of life of their people under occupation could be explained more in cultural terms since in the developing countries environmental considerations have vet to attain the degree of prominence.

We have seen this dire neglect bordering on criminal negligence in many Arab states where the quality of water their peoples drink and use is never seen as a high priority issue. The same goes for food contamination, especially when insecticides or pesticides are used indiscriminately, without real control by the concerned authorities.

#### **Human Rights File**

But to get back to the Gaza case, it appears that the water situation there has already reached an alarming point where it could affect the majority of the half a million Gazans during the upcoming years. What is the sense of gaining political freedom if the people concerned are doomed to die from

The right to life comes ahead of all other human rights aspirations, according to all existing human rights conventions and treaties. When there is no life, there can be no freedom or independence or an opportunity to exercise the right to self-determination. This is basic. Why then such gross indifference to an ominous phenomenon that is unfolding before the eyes of all parties to the peace process?

To put the issue in proper perspective, Israel is the first party to be blamed for the water situation in the area. When a

country occupies another's territory, it assumes responsibility for its well-being and the well-being of its inhabitants. Obviously the Israeli government is privy to the information that the water situation in the Gaza Strip has become untenable from the health point of view. Surely Tel Aviv knows only too well why excessive drilling for water has become necessary for the Palestinian people in the Gaza area. They also know what are the chemical contents of the drinking water that is consumed by the people. Why nothing has been done to prevent the crisis or rather the catastrophe from taking place is something that cannot be left without adequate accountability.

The secondary responsibility of the Palestinian leadership. whether local or external, cannot be glossed over either. The people should have been told by their leaders that no matter how pressing water drilling has become, they have to know the health implications of such drilling. It seems nothing of the sort has taken place. No public outcry or dissemination of information about the problem has ever been undertaken. Since the ongoing peace process also deals with mundane issues as water resources, it would be most useful to put this problem on the agenda of the multilateral peace talks dealing with water in a bid to prevent the problem from exacerbating. This is where the Arab side should assume direct responsibility for addressing the issue since the Arab Palestinians themselves have the vested interest to stay alive.

We cannot expect the Israelis to be more concerned about the quality of life among the Palestinians than the Arab parties. This is where more work has to be done to reverse the tide in the water situation in the occupied territories.

# Warning bell sounded for world's oceans

By Denise Searle

LONDON — The oceans are 'showing alarming signs of harm" and this could cause wide-ranging damage to the global environment, according to a new study by the Workdwatch Institute.

The Washington-based organisation says the decline is caused largely by over-fishing. pollution, transport of "exotic" species in ballast water of big ships, construction of dams which reduce freshwater flows and coastal structures which

By Pamela Graham

Reuter

KAPITI ISLAND; New Zea-

land — Visitors to Kapiti Is-

land learn quickly what it is

like to be mobbed by rare

The red and brown kaka

swoop from the trees to perch

on heads and shoulders.

"They're a stroppy lot," con-

servation department ranger

The kaka, native parrots

rarely seen in the wild, feed in

groups of 10 or more from a

trough of sugared water. When

they've had their fill, the black,

green and white tui take over.

life so much as the tui," Mr.

Daniel says. He should know.

He has lived with the birds on Kapiti for 17 years and still considers himself a visitor.

Kapiti has become a sanctu-

ary for rebuilding species deci-

mated by Polynesian and

European immigration. It is

also an example of how native

forest can regenerate after

being three-quarters destroyed

of bird species has been criti-

cised in the media for its

bureaucracy. Kapiti represents a balancing act between com-

These include disputes be-

tween conservationists about

what species should and should

not be put on the island, dis-

putes with local fisherman over

a marine reserve off the island,

varying opinions on how to

eradicate two species of rats from the island without dis-

rupting birdlife, and the issues

of the rights of local Maori and

access in general.
"It's so hard getting it

Goats were eradicated in

The eradication of possums

was an important milestone as

opinion before the programme

started was that it couldn't be

done. Traps and dogs were

New Zealand conservation-

ists' biggest enemy is the rat,

introduced by ship-borne

European settlers in the 19th

century. Rats have decimated

the country's bird population.

more than half of which was

flightless before vermin ar-

Keeping the nature reserves

free of rats is crucial to their

success as most birds are slow-

moving and unable to defend

Access to Kapiti, a thin sliv-

er of land that rises majestical-

ly out of the Tasman Sea just

north of Wellington, is tightly

controlled by the government.

Only 50 people per day are

allowed to visit and weekend

visitors can wait up to a year

Sheer cliffs rise 520 metres

rived.

themselves.

for a permit.

1928, cats in 1934, sheep left in

the 1930s and 22,500 possums

right," says Mr. Daniel.

were removed by 1986.

used over several years.

New Zealand's management

by axe and fire.

peting interests.

There's no bird that enjoys

Peter Daniel says.

alter the impact of tides and currents. A key sign of these problems is the reduction in fish catches, which are a major source of animal protein, particularly in many Third World countries.

"It's now believed that all 17 of the world's major fishing areas have been fished beyond their limits to replenish", says the institute. "Nine of these fisheries are in serious de-

"Current government policies continue to support overfishing, and international laws do not adequately protect coastal ecosystems, which not

**Endangered birds make** 

comeback on NZ Island

to the summit of Kapiti on the

western side and there are few

landing spots. That makes it perfect for conservation work

that is attracting international

rior Te Rauparaha, who used it

as a stronghold in the 1820s.

Inhabited by the Maori war-

interest.

only feed fish, but have become the new frontier of medical research."

The report, by staff member Peter Weber, cites United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) figures which indicate that the annual world catch is unlikely to reach and maintain the projected 100 million tonnes unless stocks are better managed.

The FAO largely agrees with Worldwatch's conclusions, but emphasises that the decline in quality of fish stocks is as important as the drop in volume. High value species such as cod and haddock are becoming

tion and then was cleared and

farmed in the 1840s when the

vegetation was burnt off. It

became a public reserve in

servation sees Kapiti's con-

tribution to the survival of bird

species as being of internation-

The Department of Con-

1897.

rare and are being replaced by lower value and less stable varieties such as squid and pollack, explained Chris Newton, chief of the FAO's fishery information service.

"Of the total marine catch in 1991, 81.1 million tonnes, or 25 per cent, came from five spepies: Alaska Pollack. South American Pilchard, Peruvian

Anchovy, Chilean Jack Mackeral, Japanese Pilchard", he said. And he is concerned about this increasing reliance on a small number of species with a variable catch.

The Worldwatch report points out that Third World countries are exporting an increasing percentage of their fish to gain the hard currency

needed to pay off pressing foreign debts. This leaves less for local people.

"Increasing poverty, in turn. drives the fishing problem into an even more vicious circle". says Mr. Weber. "As fish become more scarce, more fishers turn to destructive practices such as fishing with poisons or dynamite — PANOS.

#### **Challenge for Better Healthcare**



Due to the expansion of its business activities in Third Party Administration and Managed Care (healthcare) in Jordan, MedNet through its Franchisee Jordanian service company is seeking applicants for the following positions for its set-up in Jordan:

#### 1. MIS Manager (MMIS)

Reports hierarchically to the Franchisee General Manager, the incumbent shall implement and maintain the management information system of the Franchiser.

#### Requirements:

Bachelor's Degree (minimum) in Computer

 Previous experience in senior position (3) years minimum), preferably in UNIX and ORACLE environment.

#### 2. Chief Accountant

Reports to the Franchisee general manager; the incumbent shall be responsible for all financial and administrative matters of the Franchisee.

#### Requirements:

Accounting diploma

Previous experience in senior position (3

# 3. Marketing & Customer Service Manager (MMCS)

Reports to the Franchisee General Manager; the incumbent shall be responsible for the contractual relations between the Franchisee and the participating insurance companies including marketing matters, training and production.

#### Requirements:

 Bachelor's degree (minimum) in Business Administration, preferably with specialisation in insurance.

 Previous experience in Insurance of Persons (Life, Health, Accident) preferably in a senior position.

#### 4. Nurse Delegates

Reports to the MedNet Claim centre Manager; the incumbents shall undertake pre-hospitalisation review, medical case management and review.

#### Requirements:

Nursing Diploma from a recognised school (3 years minimum).

- Previous experience in healthcare services (1 year minimum).
- Communication skills and excellent presentation.
- Excellent knowledge of Medical terminology.

#### 5. Executive Secretary

Assists the Division Managers; the incumbent shall undertake all secretarial duties including word processing, filing, travel and appointment arrangements etc.

#### Requirements:

- Secretarial diploma
- Previous experience preferably in a similar position (2 years minimum).
- Dynamic personality with an excellent presentation.
- Knowledge of Windows environment under DOS (Excel, Word) will be considered an advantage.

For these positions MedNet Jordanian Franchisee offers a competitive salary/benefits and excellent future career in a dynamic environment.

All applicants should be fluent in Arabic and English. Knowledge of other languages(s) will be considered an asset. Interviewers shall be conducted in Amman after applications review.

Please send your resume to: Att.: Human Resources Department

P.O.Box 9188 Amman 11191 Jordan.

All applications shall be treated confidentially.

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شركة مجموعة الشرق الأوسط للأعمال التجارية Middle East Business Group Corp.

Needs to recruit the following:

Sales Representative (male or female)

Presentable appearance. Prior experience in fast moving consumer goods in the Jordan market a must. Good command of English. Preferably owns a car.

#### Secretary

Presentable appearance. At least 2-3 years experience. Knowledge of computers. Good command of English.

For appointments, please call 651445,643447.

# SIS sees buoyant trade, notably in Asia

"BASLE, Switzerland (AFP) — Trading conditions in Asia are buoyant, figures from the Bunk for International Settlements (BIS), covering the first "half of 1993, have showed." 54 The official BIS figures also shewed that \$11.4 billion had "Bowed into China during the 12 months to July. Banking officials here commented privately that these inflows might well explain the surge of

growth and inflation in China. In contrast, nations issuing from the former Soviet Union had deposited more than \$3.8 billion in BIS members banks Claims on the region had tallen 3k6\$1.3 billion and undisbursed eredit had increased sharply to 52.n billion.

But banking officials here explained privately that the figures did not necessarily re-flect a flight of capital because

reserve requirements for banks in the former Soviet Union had recently been increased and this could be an underlying factor behind funds available

They said that, while figures published by the BIS contained some margin of error, they could be interpreted as indicating that the new outflow of capital from Russia was in fact "Short-term trade financing

has been buoyant in Asia. while remaining the only active sector of international bank lending in other parts of the developing world." the BIS reported. "Secondly, local banking systems have made extensive use of international banking markets to fund local or neighbouring markets, notably in the fast-expanding eco-

The BIS, known as the central bankers' central bank, said that members banks' international claims on non-BIS areas de lined by \$2.3 billion in the fir t half of 1993 to \$689.9 bil ion on an exchange-rate adjusted basis.

Reductions of \$1 billion or more were noted in respect of Argentina, China, Australia, Venezuela, the former Soviet Union and the Philippines. But new lending exceeded

\$1 billion in respect of Thai-

land, Portugal, Malaysia, Mexico. Turkey and Indonesia. Meanwhile the liabilities of the banks to the non-BIS area declined by \$22.5 billion. This was because the withdrawal of deposits by a wide range of countries "dwarfed" new deposits of \$5.8 billion from Por-

tugal and \$3.8 billion from

former members of the Soviet

A key trend since 1989 had been a shortening of the maturity profile and this had continued in 1993. By the middle of the year the share of maturities up to one year had reached an historic high point of 52.4 per cent of the total.

While rescheduling agreements in Latin America and big syndicated credits to Asian countries "tended to shift the balance in favour of long-term exposure." these had been more than offset by "opposite forces which appear to have gained momentum."

The bank said one of these factors was the buoyant shortterm trade finance. But it also said that "the

effects of the disposal of debt by creditor banks through various debt-reduction schemes and the further accumulation

of interest arrears by a few countries, more than compensated for the impact of rescheduled debt in the books of the banks.

The BIS also noted that "most affected were reporting banks' claims on the public sector, which in nominal terms were cut by 30 per cent be-tween end-1988 and mid-

As a part of the total they were reduced from 38.6 per cent to 25.5 per cent. The bank also said that by the middle of the year loans to developing countries totalled \$445.1 biltion from \$442.5 billion at the end of 1992

In the 12 months to mid-1993, new lending to China amounted to \$3.5 billion, while the country withdrew \$7.9 billion in deposits with reporting banks," the BIS said.

Analysing the situation in eastern Europe, the BIS said that a decline of \$2 billion in claims reflected a decline of \$1.3 billion in respect of the former Soviet Union, \$500 million related to Bulgaria and \$400 million for Poland.

But there had been "a strong" increase in the volume of undisbursed credit commitments to the former Soviet Union (\$2.6 billion in current dollar terms).

Total deposits from the area continued to increase by \$2.8 billion, although this was less than half of the increase during the previous six months.

The BIS stated: "More than the whole of the increase (\$3.8 billion) was identified as coming from the successor republies to the former Soviet Un-

# Turkey faces higher rates on foreign bonds

ISTANBUL (R) — Turkey will have to pay higher rates on foreign bonds after U.S. rating agencies each lowered their long-term credit ratings by one notch, bankers have said.

Moody's cut its rating to BA1 from BAA3 because of Turkey's worsening public finances, which it saw as the key reason for its high inflation and current account gap, and the belief that high fiscal deficits would persist.

Standard Poor's (S.P.'s) followed suit, reducing its longterm foreign currency rating to BBB minus from BBB. This is one grade higher than

Moody's and still considers Turkey as suitable for investment. But S.P.'s outlook on the long-term rating remains

'We haven't seen any selling of Turkish bonds but investors will generally ask for higher rates," said an official at D.G. Bank, which last year led Tur-key's 2.4 billion mark bond

Treasury chief Osman Unsal said that despite the downgrading the government was about to conclude negotiations for new bond issues of \$1.5 billion in the next two months. We understand from the

offers that we will be able to borrow at the same yields as before but for longer maturities," he said. Moday's decision was no

surprise to bankers, many of whom had already discounted a lower rate when the rating agency put Turkey under credit review in October.

Some Japanese bankers. which arranged Samurai bonds worth 400 billion yen for Turkey last year, were critical of what they said was Ankara's failure to take corrective mea-

"It seems the government did not take Moody's review as a serious warning. We expected them to take swift action but economic fundamentals got even worse," said Ikkei Matsuda, senior manager at London-based Yamaichi Securities (Europe). Turkey will be asked to pay higher spreads in Japan."

Annual inflation climbed to 71.1 per cent last year from 66 perr cent the year before and the 1993 budget deficit is expected to reach 122 trillion lira (\$7.8 billion).

Moody's said Turkey's approximately \$8.5 billion of debt securities would be affected by the downgrade. Turkey tapped Samurai, sterling and German markets for \$3.8 billion in 1993.

The rating agency said Tur-key was making significant efforts to increase revenues, to liberalise the economy, and privatise state assets, but spending was likely to remain

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World War II

(Januar)

It said strong domestic demand and the scrapping of trade barriers by 1995, when Turkey enters a customs union with the European Union, were likely to widen further the deficit in its current account, which increased to \$4.8 billion in the first 10 months of last year, from \$505 million in the same 1992 period. But Thomas Sutherland,

vice president at J.P. Morgan. said the downgrading to BA1 failed to do justice to Turkey.

#### Metallgesellschaft saved from bankruptcy

ERANKFURT (R) - Germany's 14th largest industrial group. Metaligesellschaft A.G., clinched a last minute deal with its creditors Saturday to, save it from bankruptcy. The firm, which faces possible losses of over two billion marks (\$1.14 billion) from

U.S. oil deals, said banks and shareholders agreed to pump in 3-4 billion marks (\$1.94 billion) to keep it afloat and to allow a major reorganisation. Without the agreement, the company, which employs nearly 60,000 people, would have

had to be declared insolvent. During 10 hours of talks at a -Frankfurt hotel, the firm's German creditors agreed to make major concessions after an criginál rescue package ran into fierce opposition from French and other foreign credi-

The creditor banks of Metaligeseilschaft have approved the financing concept, pending final approval from some (bank) authorities," the firm said in a statement. "By overcoming overindebtedness with this new solution, we can begin to implement the planned restructuring

Fof the group." Company Chairman Kajo ukirchen, brought in to s vage the firm after its top management was unceremoniously fired, said: "With the support of the banks, Metallgesellschaft now has a basis which has opened up new prospects.`

Under the accord, it will receive new equity worth 2.7 billion marks (\$1.54 billion) and credits worth 700 million marks (\$400 million).

Foreign creditors had objected to an original plan to res le le company and called apon its major shareholders to assume more of the burden of the financial restructuring.

- Boutsche Sank and Dresdner Bank, which are large shareholders, agreed to assume responsibility for a large portion of a 1.4 billion mark (\$800 million) capital in-

German banks in general will provide almost half of a new credit worth 700 million marks (\$400 million), an increase from earlier plans.

The remaining money will come from an agreement by creditors to convert 1.3 billion marks (\$743 million) worth of credits into certificates which they will be able to swap for shares at a

Mr. Neukirchen told reporters that major efforts would be made to save costs and he detailed plans to hive off some

The firm would sell car components subsidiary Kolbenschmidt A.G., Canadian mining company Metall Mining Corp

and a Dutch trading group.

He said the company had to save staff costs of 700 million marks (\$400 million) and the board would decide quickly on how many jobs would have to

"When a company is in such a bad state as Mataligeselischaft, there can only be a short-term and not a long-term time frame for job cuts." he

Mr. Neukirchen's predecessor Heinz Schimmelbusch, a flamboyant Austrian manager, pursued a rapid path of expansion after he assumed leadership of the company in 1989.

But his diversification policy ran into trouble and he had to report a company loss of 347 million marks (\$200 million) for the 1992/93 business year.

loss to 1.8 billion marks (\$1 billion) and revealed last month that about half the figure had come from ordinary

Mr. Neukirchen revised this

The rest resulted from oil

deals in the United States

which went wrong when the oil

price started plunging last

### **Economists say French Africa offered** chance to pull out of recession

PARIS (AFP) - The 14 French-speaking African franc zone countries have a fair chance of pulling out of an eight-year depression after last week's shock devaluation of the CFA franc, provided they make the right economic choices, international economists say.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank and France, the 14 countries' main partner and creditor. promised to move without de-lay to secure multi-billion dollar backing for a major economic reform and adjustment drive agreed by an emergency franc zone summit in Senegal's capital, Dakar, on Friday.

An internal bank paper presented to the summit said the monetary realignment and a package of complementary economic measures "should halt the decline in most (franc zone) countries within six to 12

ROME (R) — Workers at

Italian car giant Fiat SPA de-

monstrated Saturday and un-

ions called strikes for this week

after the company said it would

breakdown of government-

mediated talks between Fiat

and trade unions on company

plans to lay off 10,000 workers

now and cut 6,000 jobs over

The failure of the talks was a

blow for the government of

Prime Minister Carlo Azeglio

Ciampi, who offered to resign

Thursday in preparation for

elections expected this spring.

ployees who will be among the

first to receive an initial batch

of 6,300 layoff notices this

week demonstrated in Fiat's

northern home town of Turin.

with its workers and know that

"Fiat should act responsibly

Some 500 white-collar em-

the next three years.

The action followed the

lay off thousands of staff.

Warning that this was only "the starting point of an arduous reform process," the paper said failure to move now would allow the crisis to drag on for at least another five

The 50 per cent devaluation of the CFA franc against the French franc — and one of 33 per cent in the care of the Comoros — was part of the bitter medicine prescribed by the Bretton Woods institutions to end a "deflationary spiral" which cut the zone's real per capita income by 40 per cent since 1986.

The decline was comparable to the one faced by the ex-Soviet republics and the fall in living standards in Europe and the United States during

the Great Depression of the Bank and fund economists ascribed the crisis to a com-

bination of external economic

shocks and inadequate domes-

its attitude could have grave

Fiat unions said in a joint

statement which announced

eight-hour stoppages at Fiat

plants on Tuesday and

Turin Mayor Valentino Cas-

tellani regretted Fiat had gone

ahead with its plans to put

10,000 workers on layoff

Turion area have already

closed in Italy's year-old reces-

Dozens of factories in the

"Turin already has a mass of

problems and this is going to

be one more," Mr. Catellani

Fiat officials defended the

company's action, saying it and

the government had set a dead-

line on midnight Friday for

agreement when the talks

started two weeks ago.

told Italian state television.

Wednesday.

schemes.

repercussions on the country."

Fiat layoff plans spark strikes

plan.

Italy.

They stressed that the franc zone's monetary arrangements were a factor for stability and growth in the 15 years to 1985, when CFA countries' output and exports grew faster than elsewhere in the Africa.

tic policies.

By contrast, most of the 30-odd other African countries which have pursued structural adjustment programmes since the mid-1980s are now showing fairly solid growth.

The shocks included the

French franc's 70 per cent rise against the dollar after the 1985 Plaza monetary agreement, which pulled up the CFA franc.

By 1992, it was overvalued by 50 per cent, according to World Bank estimates.

Secondly, the CFA countries' terms of trade fell by 40 per cent because of sharp price drops for major export commodities, including coffee,

due to come into effect on Jan.

1," one Fiat official said. "The

government asked us to give

more time and we did. We now

have to press on with the

Fiat Chairman Giovanni

Agnelli said he feared the

breakdown was final. "We will

know in a couple of days... but

it is unlikely anything will bring

In addition to the 1,800

white collar workers at its

headquarters. Fiat also plans

to lay off 2,500 staff at its Turin

car plant and a further 2,000 at

Employment has been pin-

pointed as a major priority by

Mr. Ciampi's government, which was rocked last Septem-

ber by violent protests against

job losses in poor southern

Únions said Italy risked

Arese, near Milan.

us back together." he said.

Dwindling export\_earnings hit fiscal revenue in CFA countries, burdened by huge public sector wage bills, cutting into investment and other spending, as rising budget deficits triggered a banking crisis.

The bank said that by last

year the combined foreign financing required to plug deficits had reached the level of 50 billion French francs (\$9) Officials said these develop-

ments explained a reversal of successive French governments' political commitment to defend the fixed parity betweenthe French franc and the CFA franc, unchanged since

They said France joined the IMF in virtually forcing devaluation down the throats of leaders of the CFA countries at

What they really need is an African 'Asian economic miracle'," one bank official said.

more of the sante if Fiat went

"The decision could make

social tension in Italy a lot

higher than it presently is,"

said Gianni Italia, secretary-

general of the FIM trade un-

talks is Fiat's plans to transfer

production a way from its Alfa

Romeo production plant at

Arese which employs some

Unions want assurances ab-

Fiat plans to move produc-

tion of its luxury Alfa Romeo

164 model to Rivaslta, near

Turin, leaving the Milan plant

with only the new coupe and a

They also want more work-

sharing adopted in place of the

layoffs which although official-

ly temporary offer no guaran-

tee of reemployment.

9,000 workers.

sports car.

out Arese's future.

A key sticking point in the

ahead with its plan.

#### HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY JANUARY 17, 1994 By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A tious effort to get along better with those who are important in your life as the Venus - Sun sextile to Pluto and the Moon sextile to Mercury is in place.:.:

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) If you do not act in an honest and direct way with others now, youcan get into trouble. Don't use so many angles. Seek more modern obtain your desires.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Listen to experts and family ties if you want to solve current problems wisely, not to one who abjectly has an axe to grind, or you get into trouble.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) If you attend services of your choice and listen carefully to philosophical sermon, you find that later you come to better understanding with partners in-

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Make this a day for planning a happier and more prosperous future instead of moping over dull duties and get-ting into unnecessary discussions with nonprogressive individuals. LEO: (July 22 to August 21) If you are merely looking for a good time today, you could get into trouble of some sort, so be sure you discriminate and seek those who can be an inspiration and help to you.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) If you steadfastly go about helping family ties, doing what is necessary to make the

home more beautiful and comfortable you avoid an argument.

LIBRA: (September 23 to Octo-ber 22) Don't waste time with small and unnecessary things today and listen to the fine suggestions of those older and more experienced than you. SCORPIO: (October 23 to

get much satisfaction from carrying through with practical plans you have contemplated for some time today, so be sure to decline that invitation merely to

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) If family do not agree with your ideas, it is wise to be courteous just the same and carry through with ambitions and social plans that are vital to your

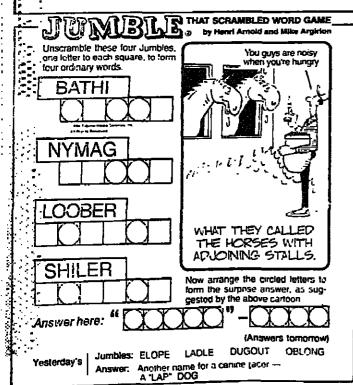
own well-being. CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) It would be well to forego that little excursion for pleasure in order to show courtesy to persons you like and to whom you owe a debt of grati-

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) A good friend shows you how you can advance through social contacts today. Follow such advice and stop trying to hold on to things and persons that are obsolete or, behind the times.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Every opportunity is yours now to be of service to others and particularly to perform some civic duty that will bring greater prosperity and satisfaction to all as well as yourself.

# -The Better Half, By Glasbergen

"It's stamped right on my driver's license. I'm officially too old to take you out necking in the car."



#### Peanuts

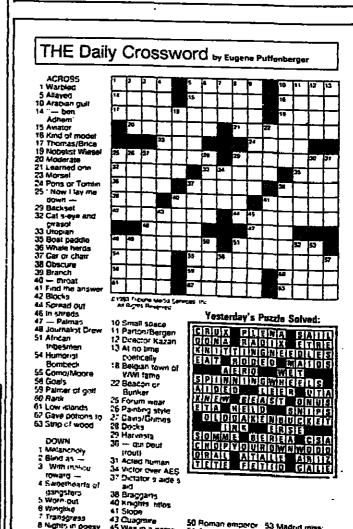


#### Andy Capp



#### Mutt'n'Jeff





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#### Oil price fall cost Kuwait \$220m in two months

KUWAIT (R) - Kuwait lost more than \$220 million from the fall in world oil prices in November and December. Kuwaiti Oil Minister Ali Al Baghli was quoted on Sunday as saying by the Al Watan newspaper Kuwait's 1993/94 national budget projects oil revenue for the July-June fiscal year at 2.419 billion dinars (\$8.1 billion). The Kuwaiti minister said he was optimistic about Oman's efforts to secure agreement between OPEC and non-OPEC producers on cutting output to support sagging prices. Sheikh Baghli said that Kuwait has rearranged its crude oil sales to serve new markets in South Africa and

# Yemen clamps down on moneychangers

SANAA (R) — Yemeni authorities have clamped down on moneychangers to combat a sharp decline in the value of the local currency which has pushed up prices of basic goods in a country paralysed by an acute political crisis.

Security sources said that police have over the last 48 hours arrested 11 unlicensed moneychangers in the capital Sanaa, but traders said the number was higher.
"Police are picking up everyone - licensed or not," one trader said.

The Yemeni riyal went down to 75 to the U.S. dollar earlier this month from 56 rivals to the dollar at the end of December on the free market as the political crisis between President Ali Abdullah Saleh and his deputy Ali Salem Al Baidh threatened Yemen's unity and

raised fears of civil war. Traders said the crackdown seemed to push the currency up on Sunday to 65 riyals to the

dollar from 75. The closure of money changing shops forced foreign visitors to change money at the official rate of 12 rivals to the dollar.

Money changing shops in the main streets of Sanaa were shut on Saturday and Sunday, which are working days in Yemen, as the police continued their campaign.

Residents said the sharp drop in the value of the rival has sent prices of staple and

other items rocketing with increases ranging between more than 100 per cent and 15 per

A sack of 50 kilogrammes of sugar rose by about 125 per cent from 650 riyals to 1,450 riyals, 50 kilogrammes of rice rose by 80 per cent from 1.100 rivals to 2,000 rivals. a packet of cigarettes by 40 per cent from 25 riyals to 35 riyals and

Hotel sources said political tension in the country has hit their business and reported cancellations in bookings.

"We have cancellations running into some 30 per cent over the past month. Only those foreign visitors who are obliged to come for business are coming, and they do their best to make their visits as short as possible, one hotel

#### Egyptian oil group says small may be beautiful ceeded in Egypt. Mr. Gendy said he was not Mr. Gendy said.

offshore block in the

abandoned it.

CAIRO (R)- A group of Egyptian oil consultants turned entrepreneurs say they can find commercially viable deposits of oil in a part of Egypt where big companies like Conoco and

Amoco have given up. The entrepreneurs make up Forum Exploration, the first private and wholly Egyptian company to win an oil explora-

tion concession in Egypt. They plan to start exploring within months, company chairman Wafiq El Gendy told Reuters.

"Big companies do not take into consideration small quantities of oil... evaluation views also differ between companies," he said, adding that the company could extend its operations overseas if it suc-

Last month parliament ratified an agreement awarding them the 212 square kilometres

of Suez, about 400 kilometres from Cairo. Amoco, Conoco and other

companies made exploratory drillings in the area but then

deterred and the block was

soft drinks by about 15 per cent

from seven to eight riyals a

Forum Exploration is using new geological concepts based on cracks in the sea bed. An offshore field nearby had used the same concepts to produce oil and now had proven re-

serves of 200 million barrels,

The company has \$2 million in capital and is negotiating with Egyptian banks for about \$8 million to finance operations.

It could cover from its own resources the first stage, evaluation studies which would cost \$250,000, Mr. Gendy said.

#### Financia! Markets

1993 OPEC meeting.

World War II.

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**Jordan Times** in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

Foreign Exchange Market Summary

(January 10- January 14, 1994)

AMMAN — The dollar appreciated sharply against the mark

at the end of last week, while depreciating against the yen and stabilising against sterling. It ended 1.30 per cent higher against the mark and 0.81 per cent lower against the yen.

The U.S. unit rose against the mark and yen Monday, in

spite of the sharp decline it suffered at the end of the previous

week, when the U.S. December employment report revealed

disappointing results. The dollar's appreciation came on

continued speculation that it will rise substantially against other major currencies this year. Meanwhile, a Federal

Reserve governor indicated that he expects inflation to remain

stable in the long run. These expectations were supported by a decline in oil prices, after none of the OPEC members unilaterally decreased its production pending the March 25,

While dealers awaited the release of U.S. December

inflation data, later in the week, the dollar continued its

appreciation Tuesday. The rise came in view of expectations

that if the inflation reports continued to reflect stable prices,

the Federal Reserve will not tighten its monetary policy in the

short run, and the economy will continue to grow on low

interest rates. Meanwhile, the adjusted chain and department

store sales in the U.S. showed a five per cent increase in the

first week of January, compared to the same period of the

previous month. On the other hand, the dollar rose against the mark, after Western Germany's GNP was reported to have

contracted by 2.3 per cent in 1993, its biggest decline since

On Wednesday, however, the dollar witnessed a relapse on

speculation that some European central banks had intervened

in the market selling dollars, and on speculation that the t not reduce German intere

month. The U.S. unit also depreciated after U.S. producer

prices showed a 0.1 per cent decline in December, as it

confirmed that inflation is under control, and that the Federal

Reserve is not going to tighten its monetary policy soon. Meanwhile, dealers awaited the release of U.S. consumer

prices Thursday, on expectations of a 0.2 per cent rise in

December. On the other hand, sterling rose against the dollar

close at 1.5035, its highest level of the week, after a positive

U.K. employment report showed a decline of 46,800 in the

number of unemployed workers in December, compared to

expectations of a decline, of 23,500.

The U.S. unit rose sharply against the mark Thursday, while

it continued to depreciate against the yen. The dollar closed at 1.7513 marks, its highest level for the week, after U.S. retail

sales showed a 0.8 per cent increase in December, compared to a 0.4 per cent increase the previous month. Meanwhile, the

December consumer price index remained unchanged, after it

increased 0.2 per cent the previous month. On the other hand,



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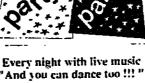


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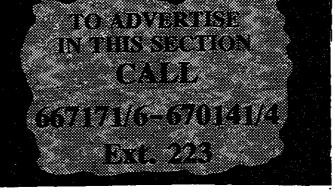
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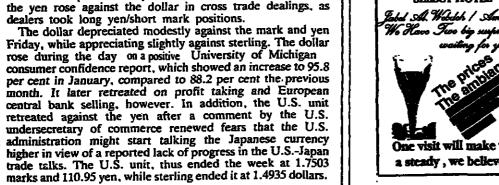




















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#### New York Closing Rates for Major Currencles Against the U.S. Dollar

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6344	0.6376
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"I cannot be at the same time in the government and in opposition to it." Mr. Gaidar. 37, wrote in a resignation letter sent to President Boris Yeltsin that was distributed to reporters\_during a briefing.

"That is why, with deep sadness. I am obliged to refuse the post of first deputy prime minister which was offered to me." the letter stated.

Mr. Gaidar said his resignation, tendered on the eve of the anticipated announcement of the new Russian government, had been accepted with "understanding" by Mr. Yelt-sin and Prime Minister Viktor

He had served in his current post since September.

Grigori Yavlinski, a marketoriented economist who has opposed key points of the government's reforms, was discussed as a potential successor and Mr. Gaidar said he "warmly welcomed" the suggestion in talks with Mr. Chernomyrdin.

Mr. Gaidar's decision to step down, however, reflected serious divisions at the top level of government on whether to steam ahead with radical reforms or to change course and place more emphasis on protecting society from the shocks of the market.

These splits became starkly obvious following legislative elections last month in which ultranationalists led by Vladimír Zhirinovsky made an unexpectadly strong showing and ading representation in the government.

JOHANNESBURG (Agencies) -

The South African govern-

ment's last major guerrilla foe.

the Azanian People's Libera-

tion Army (APLA), is to sus-

pend its armed actions with

immediate effect, it was

Clarence Makwetu. presi-

dent of APLA's political wing.

the Pan Africanist Congress

PAC), told a press conference

that the unilateral decision had

been taken Saturday at a meet-

ing of the PAC's National

this moratorium to show our

commitment to peace, which is

essential to ensure free and fair

elections on April 27." Mr.

Makwetu said, referring to

South Africa's first-ever all-

He added however that

APLA reserved the right to

defend the African people if

The hardline PAC, which

boasts the slogan "one settler (white), one bullet." broke

they are attacked.

"The PAC is announcing

Working Committee.

announced here Sunday.

In his resignation letter, Mr. Gaidar stated that he could no longer be held accountable for reforming the economy without also having the authority to block budgetary and other decisions that undermined it.

He cited two recent examples of recent government decisions he opposed: The move to bring Belarus into the "ruble zone" and the order to construct a new building at a cost of \$500 million to house the new Russian parliament.

"I cannot be responsible for reforms without having the possibility to stop such actions"... and without "the indispensible instruments to advance economic policies of which I am certain," Mr. Gaidar stated.

His resignation came a day after U.S. President Bill Clinton left Moscow following a two-day summit during which he received assurances from Mr. Yeltsin and other top officials. including Mr. Gaidar. that reforms would continue and perhaps speed up.

Apart from Mr. Yeltsin, Mr. Gaidar has been the one personality the West has most closely associated with Russia's radical market transformation and was seen as the main motivating force behind reform in the government.

Mr. Gaidar said his decision, to resign was taken during a meeting of the reformist Russia's Choice political bloc that he heads and was supported by

He also indicated that other resignations among Russia's leading government reformers

Ella Pamfilova, minister for social affairs and another leader of Russia's Choice, would soon step down while Finance Minister Boris Fvodorov "will take his decision in the coming days," Mr. Gaidar said.

armed struggle against Pretoria

comed by Law and Order

Minister Hernus Kriel, who

described it as "a welcome"

"It was high time." Kriel

said. "that the PAC and APLA realised that violence

and democracy do not mix.

You cannot achieve democracy

Niehaus also welcomed the

PAC announcement but said

the ANC would issue a fuller

Meanwhile, a newspaper re-

ported Sunday that right-wing

white South Africans are train-

ing anti-African National Con-

gress Zulus at a secret military

The Africaans-language

Rapport carried photographs

of the training camp on the

border of Natal and Orange

Free State provinces, showing

white instructors training

blacks dressed in brown com-

bat fatigues and armed with

It said 25 Zulus were being

spokesman Carl

through violent means.

statement later.

development.

Fladical black group suspends



Yegor Gaidar

Fvodorov was quoted by the radio station Echo Moscow as saving that recent decisions by the government such as those cited by Mr. Gaidar marked the start of a reversal" in

government policy.

He added that Russia's Choice had agreed that it would be "rather wise" to let Deputy Prime Minister Anato-Chubais, who has responsibility for privatisation, to continue at his post.

"Despite everything, we have so far managed to stick to a logical and positive course in the area of privatisation." Mr. Gaidar said.

Mr. Yavlinsky, who authorised the "500-day plan" for economic reform under former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, also headed a reformist bloc that barely managed to amass the five per cent of votes needed to qualify for representation in the new par-

Mr. Yavlinsky notably opposed Mr. Gaidar's decision

The paper said black recruits

were being trained to defend

members of the Zulu-based

Inkatha Freedom Party or

right-wing whites against possi-ble action by the ANC or the

Instructors included veter-

ans of South Africa's bush war

in southern Angola, Rapport

said. Training lasted for seven

It said Mr. Kriel, Manpower

Minister Leon Wessels and

Constitutional Development

Minister Roelf Mever had all

received a letter signed by the

BRA and a small plastic bag

containing a lump of what was

believed to be a plastic explo-

sive with a match pushed

Law and order spokesman

government.

to liberalise prices two years

ago prior to launching the pri-

vatisation programme. In his letter. Mr. Gaidar told Mr. Yeltsin he would continue to "firmly support you and

your reform policy. Mr. Fyodorov said Sundav he had lost his taste for work in the present government and criticised what he called unjustified spending projects.

according to Echo Moscow. "No one has personally invited me to enter the new government." he said according to the text of an interview. "I will take a decision (on my future) Monday or Tuesday.

"I believe that... we have reached a turning point, where everyone is being promised money and there are offers of stronger social support policies. But no one says who will

pay and how this will happen.
"When these great projects arise from who knows where. of course one's enthusiasm for work in the government is low," he said.

Prospects dim for Bosnia peace talks ticulated a tough political line. monitored by NATO jets. . In central Bosnia Sunday.

SARAJEVO (R) - Prospects for the latest round of Geneva British soldiers cleared the main aid route between Gornji. after Bosnian leaders talked Vakuf and Vitez of barricades erected by Muslims to protest at an alleged U.N. failure todeliver enough food to them

Bosnian Muslim Vice President Ejup Ganic said the talks along the way. would be a uscless charade U.N. relief officials blamed without pressure on the Serbs local army units and civilian to return lands with pre-war authorities, saying they were diverting U.N. supplies depo-sited instead of handing them Muslim majorities, while Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzie forecast a long fight. out to needy civilians. International mediators

U.N. protection force Major Lord Owen and Thorvald Stol-Jose Labandeira described tenberg were due in Athens for Sarajevo as having been retalks on Bosnia with Greece. latively quiet. Even so, besiegwhich now holds the European ing Serb forces fired 2(x) artillery rounds into the city and The mediators will meet the defending Muslim-led army replied with 38. Foreign Minister Karolos

Maj. Labandeira said the exchanges killed one person and wounded four on the Bosnian side. Three were hurt behind Serb lines.

Olovo district, which has been under artillery attack by Serb forces keen on cutting off supply routes to the govern-ment bastion of Tuzia, was pounded by about 1(X) shells Saturday.

In the southeast, separatist Bosnian Croats loosed off 31 shells into the besieged Muslim Quarter of Mostar. In Sarajevo. Mr. Ganic ar-

"There is new pressure on our government not to give away what is ours." he said. Bosnian Muslim Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic has threatened to boycott the talks if the shelling of Sarajevo does

The Geneva discussions aim to find agreement on a ceasefire and a plan to carve up Bosnia into three ethnic mini-

Nationalist Serb leader Radovan Karadzic again refused to meet NATO demands to allow aid into the airport at Tuzia, and would not budge on Serb demands for part of the Bosnian capital.

"Sarajevo used to be completely a Serb city. We will never leave and it will be the capital of our new state." Mr. Karadzic told the U.S. daily the Washington Post.

Meanwhile, the outgoing commander of U.N. forces in Bosnia said the West should drop its threats of air strikes to break Serb sieges around Muslim pockets.

You can't break the siege cordons around cities like Srebrenica. Gorazde or Mostar with air attacks," General Francis Briquemont told Monday's edition of the German weekly Der Spiegel.

#### Lagerfeld inaugurates new fashion venue PARIS (AFP) - Karl Lager-

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Jan. 15 as 500. Jet rural cabin 15

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Table 18 Comment Lagrace Control

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distance of

feld's haute couture collection for Chanel is usually one of the glitziest events of the week, but Saturday's curtain raiser to the spring-summer season lacked some of the characteristic pzazz. But it was not so much the clothes as the venue which seemed to have a dampening effect on the ambiance. Lagerfeld only agreed to show in the new purpose-built rooms in the Carrousel Du Louvre complex adjoining the museum on condition that he went first. His reluctance may have been wellplaced. The bland, concrete, high-tech conference centre could be anywhere in the world. It has neither the grandeur of the chandeliered balfroom of the Ritz or the discreet 17th century elegance of the Ecole Des Beaux Arts, both favourite venues. Since haute couture is about dreams and luxury, the wisdom of relocating the shows to the practical but mundane setting of the Carrousel may be questionable. Lagerfeld, who with his winter couture collection hailed a return to the short from the long, remained with micro-minis but teamed them with jackets dipping a few centimetres below the hemline of the skirt. Chanel signature cardigans in tweed finished mid-thigh, with single lines of little gilt buttons from the cuffs to the elbow, or a double set of pockets, sometimes edged with satin ribbon, as ademinent. Skimpier versions — like a scarlet tweed bolero trimmed with black over matching bodice sported by Claudia Schiffer — came with baggy pants cut on the bias so they rode up the models' legs as they strode down the catwalk.

#### Elizabeth Taylor treated for hip ailment

SANTA MONICA, California (AFP) — Actress Elizabeth Taylor was being treated at a California hospital after aggravating a chronic hip ailment in a fall at her Swiss chateau, a hospital official said Saturday. Taylor, 62, was admitted Friday to St. John's Hospital and Health Centre in Santa Monica, said spokesman Gary Miereanu. The actress has suffered from a hip ailment since falling from a horse during the 1945. Her publicist was unavailable for comment.

#### Stolen yachts used as ferries .

HONG KONG (R) - Three luxury yachts stolen from Hong Kong waters last year are now operating as ferries in southern China, a newspaper reported Sunday. The Sunday Morning Post said Li Wai-Chung, one of the Hong Kong owners, saw his yacht Cannon VIII and two other stolen boats ferrying tourists between Guangdong province and two islands to the west of Macau. The paper published a photograph of the boat, which it said was now renamed and reregistered in Guangdong. Mr. Li and a friend spent seven months searching for his unin-. sured boat after it was stolen from Hong Kong's Causeway: Bay typhoon shelter on June 15. The Post said Mr. Li had also discovered three otherboats stolen from Hong Kong and believed sold to wealthy Guangdong businessmen. Nine luxury boats, including property and garment tycoon Allan Zeman's \$2.56 million yacht
Zee Breeze II. were stolen from Hong Kong yacht clubs last year. Zhu Entao, head of China's Interpol National Central Bureau, said in December five stolen craft had been

# Jackson calls for

insurance payout

LONDON (AFP) — Amer-

# Democrats.

House and Senate candidates are off and running for this November's U.S. elections with resurgent Republicans optimistic they can weaken or end control by entrenched

peace talks dimmed Sunday

tough and fighting showed no

sign of letting up.

Union presidency.

Papoulias ahead of Tuesday's

peace talks in Geneva, where

Bosnia's warring Serbs. Mus-

lims and Croats resume nego-

ground, it was business as

But for gunmen on the

U.N. peacekeeping soldiers

spotted 30 Bosnian Serb heli-

copters over the government-held Sapna region northeast of

Tuzla Saturday night. U.N. military sources said.

They had no more details of

what appeared to be another violation of the U.N. no-fly

zone over Bosnia, which is

WASHINGTON (R) -

All 435 House seats and 34 of the 100 Senate seats are at stake on Nov. 8. Democrats now enjoy majorities of 258-176 in the House with one independent and 56-44 in the

Democrats have controlled the House for the last four decades and the Senate for all

U.S. Congress candidates begin campaigns

Senate.

but six of those years. Republicans, depressed after George Bush lost the White House to President Bill Clinton in November 1992, have rebounded by winning six major races since then, electing senators in Georgia and Texas. governors in New Jersey and Virginia and mayors in New

all posts that had been in Democratic hands.

Since 1969, the party that holds the White House has

lost, on average. 21 House seats and two in the Senate in non-presidential election years such as 1994. While it seems unlikely Republicans could pick up the 42 seats needed for a House majority, they do have a chance to take over the Senate with a net seven-seat

# Mexican troops burned bodies, tortured prisoners, survivors say

York City and Los Angeles -

SAN CRISTOBAL DE LAS CASAS, Mexico (AFP) -Mexican troops burned a building filled with bodies and tortured prisoners while putting down an Indian rebellion in southern Mexico, survivors

Commission meanwhile said it recovered about a dozen bodies from a mass grave at the cementery in Ocosingo, a town some 80 kilometres away and the site of the most

violent clashes between the rebel Zapatista National Liberation Army and government

of the uprising said Saturday.
The National Human Rights

The grave, dug at least 11 days earlier, held the bodies of civilians killed when troops retook the town from rebel control. Commission officials said the bodies would be returned to family members, except for those presenting "some type of abnormality."

The eports came accusations by human rights activists of military abuses during the crackdown.

ses were piled up, bound their hands, blindfolded them and forced them onto the floor near the bodies. The group said the soldiers: then left, threatening to shoot

According to the accounts,

soldiers took the five to a cafe

where between 25 and 30 corp-

them the following day. The soldiers returned

next morning and dragged the five out to a military vehicle, from which the prisoners said they could see the troops dousing the cafe with gasoline. Minutes later, "we heard the explosion," one of them said.

#### from the African National trained at the "Alpha" base. Craig Kotze said Kriel had Congress (ANC) in 1959 over one of four such camps. Rapreceived a letter warning in the question of whether whites port journalists were blind-Afrikaans: "Due to your concould play a role in the fight folded before being taken to tinuing treason, your time is against apartheid.

Colombo makes final peace offer

automatic rifles.

COLOMBO (AFP) - Sri Lanka's "last chance" offer to negotiate with Tamil separatists at the weekend in a bid to end the long and bloody ethnic conflict was being seen here as a prelude to a major military

Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe invited the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eclam (LTTE) to make peace proposals to a new parliamentary committee and said it would be his final offer to the rebels.

"This is the last chance extended to them (the LTTE) for discussion," Mr. Wickremesinghe told a public rally Saturday in the island's southern region, where the majority Sinhalese community is concentrated.

Tamil politicians and military analysts here interpreted the prime minister's remarks as a signal that Colombo would step up military pressure on the guerrillas, who are leading a campaign for a separate Tamil homeland.

Wickremesinghe himself expressed pessimism over the LTTE's willingness to respond. "The government has tried to initiate confidence-building measures, but their failure indicate that the LTTE cannot

be trusted," he said. "The LTTE's stand regarding political negotiations indicate that there is no interest in that direction," the premier said, although he did not specify what the government would do if the Tigers rejected his offer. Fourteen months of peace

to rebels ahead of military onslaught

talks between Colombo and the LTTE abruptly ended in June 1990, leading to a resurgence of violence.

Pro-government Tamil politician Dharmalingam Sidhathan said security forces could launch an offensive against the LTTE ahead of a crucial local elections in the south of the country in March.

"This being an election year the government will have to show southern (Sinhalese) voters that it is doing something about the LTTE. The indications are that security forces are moving in that direction." Mr.Sidhathan said Sunday.

But he warned Colomboagainst abandoning political efforts to end the conflict which has claimed thousands of lives since 1972 and urged the government to make its own proposals for discussion with other Tamil groups.

"Both sides know very well what the Tamils are demanding. The government should come forward with proposals without waiting for the tigers," Mr. Sidhathan said.

Sri Lanka's two million Tamil minority has been demanding greater autonomy in the northern and eastern regions where the are concentrated. Colombo has conceded to demands to make Tamil an official language on a par with Sinhalese.

The Tamil separatist campaign led by the LTTE was initiated in 1972 and erupted into a full-scale guerrilla war after anti-Tamil riots here in July 1983.

While scores of other Tamil rebel groups have given up their separatist demands and entered the political main-stream, the LTTE has remained a powerful guerrilla movement agitating for a

homeland called Eelam. Defence officials said 12,000 new recruits were currently undergoing military training and security forces were also in the process of acquiring more helicopters and other hardware to mount fresh attacks against the Tigers.

Colombo is also in the process of rehauling the command and control structure of the armed forces with a new army chief taking over from this month and a new air force commander by the middle of February.

Local press reports quoted the new army chief, Lieutenant General Gerry De Silva, as saying the best form of defence against the LTTE was offensive action.

The Sri Lankan parliament has already voted 20.36 billion rupees (\$415 million) for defence this year, up from an estimated 18.5 billion rupees (\$377 million) in 1993.

#### Italian president dissolves parliament

ROME (AFP) - Italian President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro Sunday dissolved parliament in a move that looks set to end the nearly 50-year domination of Italy's political life by the Christian Democrats.

In a separate development. Mr. Scalfaro also refused to accept Prime Minister Carlo white extremists of the shadowy Boer Republican Army Azeglio Ciampi's resignation. which was tendered Thursday. (BRA) have issued death threats to three South African He will thus stay on as caretaker prime minister until new cabinet ministers and to a moderate right-wing leader, the elections are held. Johannesburg Sunday Times

The president signed the decree for the dissolution of the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies, according to Article 88 of the constitution, the statement said. The decree was co-signed by Mr. Ciampi.

The decision was announced after a 90-minute meeting between Mr. Scalfaro and Mr. Ciampi at the presidential office in Quirinal Palace here earlier Sunday.

The dissolution of parliament, of which 350 members out of 945 are under investigation in the ongoing "clean hands" corruption scandal, paves the way for an end to nearly 50 years of political domination by the Christian

Democrats. Debate over the proposed election date of March 27 which coincides with the Jewish Passover holiday - continued Saturday, with the president of the 30,000-member Italian Jewish community, Tullia Levi, holding a lengthy meeting with Mr. Ciampi to discuss the problem.

The Jewish community would not be able to vote on March 27 because of their holi-

Mr. Ciampi is to meet Sunday afternoon with Institution Reform Minister Leopoldo Elia, Justice Minister Giovanni Conso and Relations With Parliament Minister Paolo Barile to discuss the Jewish problem, ahead of the full cabinet meetng at 5:00 p.m.

The prime minister's office at the Chigi Palace has suggested, as a possible solution, the extension of voting from Sunday through Monday March 28. But this move would require that the dissolved parliament adopt a special decree.

Another solution is to hold the elections on March 20, as favoured by the ex-Communist Democratic Party of the Left (PDS) and the neo-fascist Italian Socialist Movement But this date is considered

too early to allow polling stations to prepare their voting lists, and the Christian Democrats have been vigourously pushing for a date in June, fearing a drubbing if elections are held sooner.

#### Five Indians, who refused to be identified, said soldiers took them into custody on Jan. 6 in the town of Altamirano.

Turkmen leader wins extra 5 years ASHGABAT. Turkmenistan (R) - The president of Turkmenistan, object of the former Soviet Union's most adoring personality cult, won an extra five years of power after a referendum overwhelmingly backed him, officials said Sun-

They said final results of Saturday's referendum gave 99.99 per cent support to President Saparmurat Niyazov. A senior government official

said the victory would lay the foundation for an acceleration of potentially painful freemarket reforms to the Communist-style economy of the small energy-rich republic. which borders Iran and Afgha-

The chairman of the Central Committee on Elections, Alexander Dodonov, told journalists that only 212 people from an electorate of 1.95 million had voted against president and 17 ballots were spoiled. Turnout was also 99.99 per

"Humanitarian love and re-

spect for their leader compel-

led people to participate, coupled with faith that he will lead his people into prosperity and happiness," Mr. Dodonov The win means Mr. Nivazov. elected president with 99.5 per cent of the vote in 1992, may

remain in power until the year

2002 and bypass a constitution-

al requirement that presidents

must be reelected every five Mr. Niyazov, a 53-year-old

ex-Communist Party boss, has gained genuine popularity among his people for funding a magnanimous welfare state from increased revenues from gas exports since independence

Electricity, water and gas cost nothing for this country's 4.2 million people and bread is set to become free from 1996. Concurrently president.

in 1991.

prime minister and head of the only legal party, Mr. Nivazov is known by titles such as "chief of the Turkmen", "the first hero of Turkmenistan" and "the universally acknowledged leader." Streets, schools, farms, the

world's longest canal, a breed of horse and even a city have been renamed in his honour. But diplomats say comparisons with Soviet dictator Josef Stalin are overblown.

"Nivazov is no democrat but he is genuinely popular and the depth of social control in Turkmenistan is minute compared to the Soviet Union under Stalin," a foreign diplomat said.

#### Hosokawa faces crucial week on reforms

TOKYO (R) - Japanese Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa, his political future in the balance, faces a crucial week as a parliamentary vote on political reform looms.

Mr. Hosokawa's fragile eight-group coalition wants to put the anti-corruption package to a vote in the upper house Reform Committee this week before trying to win final approval at a full house ses-

He is expected to win a slim majority in the committee but the outcome of the full house vote hangs in the balance. Yoshihiro Mori, secretary-

general of the opposition Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), said Sunday his party was ready for talks with the coalition about a compromise. But the future of the pack-

age remains uncertain while Mr. Hosokawa faces rebellion in his own ranks, If the prime minister fails to enact the reforms by Jan. 29,

the end of the current 135-day session, the bills will die. The prime minister pledged on coming to power last August to clean up corrupt politics or take political responsibility -- a phrase taken to mean he would resign or call elections. Although the coalition occupies 131 of the upper house's

252 seats, there is no guarantee it could win a majority. According to a survey of upper house lawmakers published Saturday by the daily Mainichi Shimbun, at least five members of the coalition's

dominant Socialist Party would

cast "no" votes. More than 20 other Socialists were locked in dispute over which way to vote, the poll

The Socialist rebels against their party leadership say single-seat districts, a key part of the package, would mean oblivion for the party at the next election. The Socialist leadership

would make last-ditch efforts to persuade discontented members to support Mr. Hosokawa's reforms, party Secret-ary General wataru Kubo said

"If the reform bills are rejected because of the Socialist Party, it will have a grave effect on the future of the Hosokawa government," he told a televised panel discus-

Health Minister Keigo Ouchi voiced deep concern over the Socialist rebels and said it remained to be seen whether the bills could pass the upper house. 'I heard rumours that there

There are still elements of uncertainty and therefore it will be a very close contest."

Mr. Hosokawa's team recently launched a behind-thescenes offensive to woo reformists in the LDP, which lost its

are about 15 rebels," he said.

38-year grip on power in July general elections. The Mainichi poll said there were 10 upper house lawmakers from the LDP who remained non-committal, hinting that they could defy the party decision and vote for the re-

form bills. The LDP's Mori said Sunday that party President Yohei Kono could meet Mr. Hosokawa to win concessions. "We are not thinking of getting all of our proposals accepted," Mr. Mori told the televised panel discussion.

ican pop star Michael Jackson has filed a £20 million (\$30 million) claim with insurers Lloyd's of London to cover the loss of income he incurred when he cancelled his Dangerous world tour last month, the Sunday Telegraph reported here. Jackson, who faces a multi-million dollar lawsuit from a 13-year-old boy he allegedly molested, pulled out of the tour to seek treatment for an addiction to painkillers. The tour promoters have also filed claims for compensation with Lloyd's, whose total liability could reach £40 million \$60 million, the paper said. The German promoters Mama Concerts and Marcel Avram. and their U.S. counterparts Pebbles Music Incorporated are also suing Jackson for \$10million in compensation for the

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# Karl Lage U.S. Olympic Committee | Stangassinger wins World Cup slalom | Date defeats Fernandez, wins



Figure skater Tonya Harding waves to cameramen through her car window Jan. 15 as she and her ex-husband Jeff Gillooly drive up to her rural cabin (AFP photo)

PORTLAND, Oregon (R) -U.S. Olympic officials assembled late Saturday for a meeting Sunday to discuss the fate of figure skating champion Tonya Harding as Detroit pro-secutors weighed evidence in the January 6 clubbing of her rival, Nancy Kerrigan.

The Sunday meeting in Durham, North Carolina, by U.S. Olympic Committee officials was previously scheduled but it has taken on a new urgency in light of the Kerrigan beating scandal that has shocked the world.

Harding and her former husband, Jeff Gillooly, huddled Saturday with their lawyers, who promised to issue a longawaited statement soon.

With Harding's bodyguard and two associates charged with conspiracy in the attack, in which Kerrigan was whacked in the knee and forced out of the national championships, it remained unclear when and whether more suspects might

Intense speculation focused on Harding and Gillooly after a series of news reports alleged that two of the suspects already charged in the case have implicated them to authorities.

Harding and Gillooly, who divorced in August and then reconciled, have denied any involvement. But they have offered few words for the scores of reporters and television crew members who have descended on Portland to follow a tale that has the sportingworld in an uproar a month before the Winter Olympics.

The Olympic committee was not expected to take any action over the weekend regarding Harding's place on the figure skating team — which also includes Kerrigan — which will compete next month in Lillehammer, Norway.

In Detroit, investigators sent the case to the Wayne County prosecutor's office for consideration of separate Michigan assault charges. Detroit deputy police chief Benny Napoleon said a decision is expected as

early as Tuesday. He declined to comment on how many people might be charged but told NBC's 'Today show Saturday, "To my

Agencies THOMAS Stangassinger clinched his second victory of the

season and led a 1-2 Austrian finish in a men's World Cup slalom race Sunday in Kitzbuehel, Austria. Stangassinger, 28, also seized the lead in World Cup

Slalom standings by picking up 100 points for his victory. Thomas Sykora, who was fiffth after the first run, shot past the 59 gates on the Gans-

lem course in the second heat to finish second. Alberto Tomba of Italy skied aggressively in the second run but could not improve on the third-place finish

he held after the first run. Still, it was Tomba's best race in a week. Tomba, the only Alpine skier to win consecutive Olympic gold medals, had failed to complete his last three races. He had won two slaloms earlier in the season.

The Italian superstar will be shooting for a fourth gold medal next month at the Winter Games in Lillehammer, Norway. Tomba won the giant slalom Olympic titles in 1988 and Sestriere, Italy, also in November. and 1992, and the slalom gold Marc Girardelli of Luxem-

medal in 1988. bourg, the defending World "I charged my batteries for Lillehammer," Tomba said. Cup champion who is seeking a record sixth overall title, strad-Tomas Fogdoe of Sweden, dled a gate halfway into the the World Cup slalom chamfirst run and was eliminated.

pion, who was second after the Girardelli, who finished first heat, had an error-filled second in Saturday's downhill, missed an opportunity to pick up combination points. Sunsecond run and dropped to day's slalom and the downhill Stangassinger, who had a big counted for the season's first lead in the previous slalom in Kranjska Gora, Slovenia, one combination, a paper race that combines the results of the two week ago, only to fall in the

SYDNEY (R) - Kimiko Date

won her first major singles title

outside Japan Sunday when

she upset American Mary Joe

Fernandez 6-4 6-2 in the

women's final at the New

Date's two previous career

victories came in the 1992 and

1993 Japan opens. Her unex-

pected success on a hot day at

white city was the highlight of

It was never a classic final

and Fernandez, an impressive

semifinal winner over Gabriela

Sabatini, was a big disappoint-

ment after taking an early 3-0

The delighted Date's reward

was a cheque for \$60,000.

\$18,000 more than Pete Sam-

pras received for winning

Saturday's men's final. The

women's event has a higher

rating on the WTA tour than

its male counterpart has in the

Date's win confirmed the rising profile of Japanese players

in Australia following her com-

patriot Mana Endo's success in

the Tasmanian Open earlier in

The champion's limited

knowledge of Australian tennis

history, however, was exposed

after the prize-giving cere-

mony. Asked if she enjoyed

meeting ex-champion Evonne

Cawley, formerly Goolagong, who presented her with the

trophy, Date confessed she

Speaking via an interpreter,

she also revealed she would be

putting the biggest cheque of her career straight into a de-

posit account and was hoping

In the opening games,

however, such a scenario

looked unlikely as Date's

almost embarrassing early

attempts to volley at the net

helped give Fernandez an in-

The American world num-

ber seven was two breaks no

within minutes, allowing Date

just six points, and even slip-

ped in a couple of aces on her way to a 4-2 lead.

At that point, however, her

game fell apart for no obvious

reason, allowing Date to reel

off four games in a row and

her opponent's serve at the

start of the second set but

again it proved a false dawn.

take the set in 47 minutes.

stant advantage.

Fernandez

for more success in Mel-

had never heard of her.

the 23-year-old's career.

lead in the first set.

ATP calendar.

the weekend.

bourne.

South Wales Open.

Lasse Kjus of Norway won the combination and picked up

Another Norwegian, Kjetil-Andre Aamodt, finished second in the combination, earned 80 points and extended his overall lead over Guenther Mader of Austria.

Stangassinger's victory com-pleted a good weekend for the Austrian men, following Patrick Ordieb's win in Saturday's

6-2 rout

Manchester United retained their 13-point lead at the top with a 1-0 win at Tottenham, Welsh striker Mark Hughes scoring his 12th goal of the season four minutes after the

second-placed Blackburn Rov-Sheffield United.

ers were also shown the red card at Watford as their side first division, although their

Arsenal's 0-0 draw at Manchester City, their sixth game without conceding a goal, left them three points behind Blackburn in third place on 45. Blackburn have 48 and Man-

tee put Everton two up in the 42nd minute and they sat on their lead after Swindon were reduced to 10 men, allowing John Moncur and Welsh inter-national Paul Bodin to level the score after an hour. Defender Gary Ablett res-

tored Everton's lead in the 71st minute, ramming home the re-bound after Matthew Jackson had headed against the bar. Cottee completed his second hat-trick of the season with an

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# to discuss Harding case

knowledge, there is no evidence to implicate Harding." Harding bodyguard Shawn Eckardi and suspected assailant Shane Stant, both of whom have been charged with conspiracy to commit assault. have told investigators that Harding knew in advance of the plot on Kerrigan, according to news reports.

But a woman who said she had been a close friend of Eckardt's contradicted that in a local television interview and said the bodyguard told her Gillooly asked him to arrange the attack "so that Tonya can win the Olympics."

"The way that I understood it was Jeff was doing this for Tonya, so he could look better in her eyes," Sarah Bergman told Katu-T.V.

There were signs of eroding support for Harding, whose hardscrabble background and boisterous lifestyle have won her legions of fiercely loval fans but never made her a favourite in the elite world of competitive figure skating.

The Olympic committee said in a statement it was in contact with law enforcement agencies "to monitor the situation as a basis for appropriate action."

"We are concerned about issues of sportsmanship as well as the potential of disruptive elements within the U.S. delegation at the games," USOC President Leroy Walker said.

Chire Ferguson, president of the U.S. Figure Skating Association, which has jurisdiction over Olympic skaters, said it would bar Harding only if evidence showed she were involved in the plot on Kerri-

But Ferguson said she would not try to dissuade Harding if she were to decide to withdraw.

Eckardt, 26, and Derrick Smith, 29, were freed on bail pending a meeting of a grand jury in Portland this week. which will decide whether to indict them on the felony conspiracy charge. Stant. 22. Smith's nephew, was in federal custody in Arizona on a charge of unlawful flight.

Smith is accused of driving the getaway car after the assault.

# **Bulls beat Rockets**

victory.

CHICAGO (R) — The Chicago Bulls keep on proving there is life after Michael Jordan.

Scottie Pippen scored 25 points and grabbed 12 rebounds as the Bulls won their 13th straight home game, beating the struggling Houston Rockets 82-76 Saturday. Pippen, who scored five of

his points in the last five minutes, also had six assists. B.J. Armstrong added 15 points and Bill Wennington chipped in 11 points and seven rebounds for the Bulls, who

improved to 14-2 at home. Hakeem Olajuwon, who poured in a season-high 45 points in a loss at Washington Thursday, led Houston with 29 points. He was the only Rocket

in double figures. Houston is now 6-6 since opening the season with a blazing 22-1 start. The Bulls improved to 19-4 after a 4-7 start. The Bulls (23-11) are only one game behind last-year's

championship page despite Jordan's retirement just before the season's start. entrees At Indiana, Reggie Miller scored 26 points and Antonio Davis scored seven of his 14 in the decisive fourth quarter as tne racers snapped the Atlanta Hawks' seven-game winning

streak 94-91. Indiana, which also snapped a 14-game Hawks winning streak when it dealt them their only home loss of the season

Dec. 16, has won four of its last five games. kevin Willis had 28 points and 16 rebounds to pace Atlanta, which is still the best in the eastern conference at 24-8, Dominique Wilkins added 23

In Dallas, the Mavericks set the NBA record for most consecutive home losses by suffering their 17th straight defeat at Reunion Arena, 104-87 to the

San Antonio Spurs. David Robinson and Terry Cummings each scored 20 pooints to lead the Spurs.

The Mays broke a consecutive-home-loss record they shared with Orlando. Earlier this season, they tied the 1972-73 Philadelphia 76ers for

consecutive losses in a season

second run, made no mistakes

this time. He posted an aggre-

gate time of one minute, 37.85

seconds to win the season's

"It's always special to win

here before so many Austrian

fans," said Stangassinger, who

has been battling a flu. It was

his fourth career World Cup

Stangassinger won the sea-

son's opening slalom in the

United States at Park City,

Utah, in November, and was

second in Stoneham, Canada.

with 20. Jamal Mashburn scored a game-high 26 for Dallas, which lost its ninth in a row to fall to a league-worst 2-32, 0-17 at home. The Spurs won their 10th in their last 11 games.

In Cleveland, Gerald Wilkins and Brad Daugherty scored 20 points apiece and the Cavaliers held the Philadelphia 76ers to eight points in the second quarter en route to a 110-67 win.

The 67 points scored by Philadelphia was a franchise low and the fewest ever allowed by a Cavalier squad. The NBA record for fewest

points in a quarter is four, set by Sacramento against the Lakers in 1987, and the record for a game is 57, set by Milwaukee against Boston in

Clarence Weatherspoon scored 18 points to lead Philly. In New York, Patrick Ewing scored 23 points and newly acquired Derek Harper keyed an 18-2 fourth-quarter run that led the Knicks to a 97-88 victory over the Detroit Pistons.

Harper scored 18 points as New York won its fourth straight game and handed Detroit its 12th consecutive loss - the Pistons' longest losing streak since they dropped a club-record 14 in a row in 1979-80.

Charles Oakley collected 12 points and 12 rebounds for the Knicks.

Terry Mills scored 21 points, Joe Dumars added 18 and Isiah Thomas had 14 for Detroit.

In Seattle, Shawn Kemp scored 16 of his 25 points in the first half as the Supersonics raced out to a 15-point halftime lead en route to a 97-78 victory over the Miami Heat.

The win snapped a twogame losing streak for Seattle, which has the league's best record at 27-5, and extended Miami's losing streak to four. The Sonics' stifling defence

forced 20 Miami turnovers. Steve Smith scored 15 points to lead the Heat.

# Everton end dismal streak with

LONDON (R) - Tony Cottee hit a hat-trick as Everton, with only one point and two goals in their previous seven premier league games, marked new manager Mike Walker's debut with a crushing 6-2 win over Swindon Saturday.

England's Alan Shearer took his overall tally to 22 with both goals, one in each half, as ers, who have two games in hand, kept in touch with the champions with a 2-1 win at

United had Alan Cork and Carl Bradshaw sent off in the final quarter of an hour, both for their second bookable off-

Two Birmingham City playcrashed to a 5-2 defeat in the nine men pulled back two late

At Everton, new manager Walker got a standing ovation before the start. Striker Cottee contributed two goals in the last six minutes after bottom club Swindon, down to 10 men, had pulled back to 2-2 with two goals in six minutes in

the second half. Swindon had striker Andy Mutch sent off in the 51st minute for retaliating after a foul by John Ebbrell, scorer of Everton's opening goal in the fourth minute.

chester United 61. Former West Ham star Cot-

89th-minute penalty as Swindon conceded another three goals in the final six minutes. Peter Beagrie ended the rout with an injury-time header.

# **New South Wales Open**

Kikimo Date

Date, still mixing the occasional dramatic mishit into her steady baseline game, won six of the last seven games and hustled to victory in 84 mi-

"I made too many unforced errors," Fernandez admitted. 'She just seemed not to make too many mistakes and forced the game.'

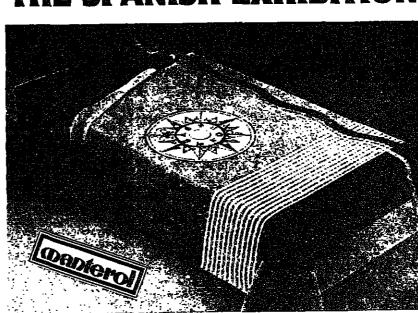
Date, seeded fifth and ranked 13th in the world, also seems to respond positively to playing higher-rated players. She conceded only nine games in total during wins this week over Fernandez and world number four Conchita Martinez.

Fernandez and Australian men's player Sandon Stolle later presented a cheque for over \$25,000 to Sydney's bushfire appeal on behalf of the tourna-

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ified young female typist English/Arabic.

#### Mills for a loose ball on the first half of their game (AFP photo) Tel.: 634144 Cinema T PHILADELPHIA 0 Daryl Hannah - in SPLASH D Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 11 a.m. special show for children Thur., Fri.

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BASKETBALL ACTION: New York Knicks Herb Williams (centre) battles Detroit Pistons Isiah Thomas (left) and Terry

Tel.: 677420 Cincol CONCORD CONCORD '1' Madonna — in A League Of Their Own Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

CONCORD '2' **ASSASSIN** Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 5:15 Arabic play "Hi America" at 8:30

Tel.: 699238 Cinema PLAZA Amr Diyab, Omar Sharif and Yusra

Love (Arabic) Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 5:00, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

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#### U.N. ready to help Mideast peace process

GENEVA (AFP) - U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali reaffirmed in a meeting with the Syrian President Hafez Al Assad that the United Nations was ready to help push forward Tast peace process, his spokeswoman said Sunday. taut said Dr. Ghali told Mr. Assad in a meeting in urday that the United Nations was ready to go so by the Arab and Israeli partners in the search for , ice. Mr. Assad, who was accompanied by Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa, voiced his support for the world body and its secretary general, according to Ms. Gastaut. The meeting was the first between Mr. Assad and a U.N. secretary general since 1984, when Javier Perez de Cuellar visite. Damascus.

#### Israelis allack Arab suspects in court

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) - Relatives of two Israeli teenagers killed in an Arab guerrilla attack pounced on three manacled Palestinian suspects in a Jerusalem court on Sunday. radio reports said. Israeli guards intervened and the defendants, one of them bleeding, were rushed out of the courtroom. The judge postponed the murder trial for three weeks and warned the families against further disturbances, radio reporters who witnessed the incident said. Court officials declined to comment on the attack against Abdul Jawad Shamasna, Mohammad Shamasna, Ibrahim Shamasna, members of the mainstream Fateh faction. They are charged with killing four Israelis. Among their alleged victims were Lior Tubul, 17 and Ronen Karamani, 18, whose deaths in 1990 ignited several days of riots and revenge attacks in which one

#### Israeli gunboats wound Lebanese fisherman

TYRE, Lebanon (R) - israeli ganboats opened machinegunfire on a number of fishing boats off South Lebanon on Sunday, wounding one fisherman, security sources said. They said the Israeli gunboats opened fire at the vessels off the coastal village of Qiayleh, eight kilometres south of the port town of Tyre. The wounded fisherman was taken to a hospital in Tyre. Israeli boats, which often patrol the southern Lebanon coast to stop seaborne guerrilla raids on northern Israel, imposed a two-week ban late last year on fishing in the

#### Iran releases religious leader

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran said Sunday it had released a Christian religious leader from jail but denied allegations that he had been sentenced to death for apostasy. The Islamic Republic News Agency said Mehdi Debadi nad been freed on bail pending a court investigation on charges that were not disclosed. Earlier this month, the U.S. State Department called on Iran to release Mr. Debadj, who was believed to be on death row because of his conversion from Islam. Mr. Debadj was described as a minister in the Evangelical Assemblies of God Church.

#### Thai officials to visit Libya

BANGKOK (AFP) - Thai officials are due to visit Thai workers in Libya early next weel; to survey their conditions and see if there is a need for more labour there, a news report said Sunday. Libyan leader Colonel Muammar Qadhafi in November threatened to expel as many as 10,000 Thai workers from his country for Thailand's alleged support of U.S. charges that Libya was producing chemical weapons. That workers were reportedly expelled from Libya, but it was denied by Thai Deputy Prime Minister Boonchu Rojanastien when he met with a Libyan diplomat here in Novel Thai delegation's visit is due to begin Tuesday, the Thailanguage daily Matichon said. It will be led by the Labour and Social Welfare Ministry's deputy permanent-secretary. Prasong Rananand, and the deputy director of the employment service department, Wong Chantong. Two hundred Thai workers left Libya shortly after Col. Qadhafi's threat, but they had reached the end of their contracts and were not expelled.

#### Shariah bans single women at hotels

DUBAI (R) - Sharjah, considered the most conservative of the United Arab Emirates, has banned tourists and prohibited single women from renting rooms in an apparent bid to stem a tide of unwelcome visitors. The Sharjah newspaper Al Khaleej said on Sunday the government, which applies strict Islamic laws, stopped issuing tourist visas from Jan. 15. No reason was given. Sharjah residents have reported a rise in the crime rate and say that some single women who go there engage in prostitution because hotels are cheaper than in booming Dubai next door. Hundreds of Russians and citizens of other former Soviet republics fly to Sharjah each week on charter flights. Most buy cheap electronic goods to sell back home at double the price. Some women have been found engaged in prostitution but many of those regularly chased out of the emirate come from the Indian subcontinent or poorer Arab countries like Egypt. The Sharjah government earlier this week banned single women from renting hotel rooms or furnished apartments and said women should be accompanied by husbands or a male relative. Newspapers also said that a Sharjah appeals court on Saturday sentenced three men to death for drug smuggling, the first such sentence in the UAE against drug traffickers. They said the Pakistani men, two of whom were sentenced in absentia, had been accused of smuggling more than three tonnes of hashish and half a kilo of

#### Lebanon's currency reserve quadrupled

a tl : r

BEIRUT (AP) - Prime Minister Rafik Hariri said Saturday Lebanon's foreign currency reserves rose from \$450 million to about \$2 billion in 14 months. Mr. Hariri told reporters the rise in treasury coffers was used to strengthen the nation's currency, which now rates 1,700 Lebanese pounds to the dollar. The pound rated 2,800 to the dollar when Mr. Hariri took office Oct. 31, 1992. Mr. Hariri, a self-made business tycoon who has vowed to lift Lebanon from the ashes of its 1975-1990 civil war, is backed by Syria, Lebanon's main power broker, and Saudi Arabia, the Arab World's richest country. His remarks were made in answer to questions about the 1994 budget his government intends to out before the Lebanese parliament to accelerate the process of post-war reconstruction. "There are no apprehensions in announcing the new budget because the treasury is now relatively prosperous. Mr. Hariri said. The government says it needs \$4.4 billion to start the reconstruction process, which would cost \$10 billion altogether. By United Nations counts, Lebanon sustained \$25 billion worth of destruction during the 1975-1990 civil war.

#### Canadian official meets Palestinians

DAMASCUS (R) - Canada's top diplomat in the Middle East had talks with two calestinian leaders opposed to the autonomy deal with Isra... Palestinian officials and diplomats said. Marc Perron, assis: a deputy minister for Africa and the Middle East, had separa , meetings on Saturday with George Habash, leader of the Palestine (PFLP) and N. If Hawatmeh, leader of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP). Diplomats said the talks were the first public contact between a Western official and Palestinian hardliners. A PFLP spokesman said the talks, held at Mr. Perron's request, dealt with efforts to find a solution to the Palestinian problem. "Habash reiterated the PFLP's rejection of the Gaza-Jericho plan because it did not respond to the minimum rights of the Palestinian people," the spokesman said. He said Dr. Habash urged Canada to press Israel to respond to U.N. resolutions which constitute a basis for any solution..."

# Majali, Aziz review Jordan-Iraq relations

Iraq seeks help to end sanctions

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN - Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Sunday met with Iraqi deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz for talks on Jordanian-Iraqi relations. officials said.

Diplomatic sources said Mr. Aziz, who arrived here Saturday, was seeking Jordanian in-tervention with Washington to end the international sanctions imposed against his country following its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

No official comment was available on the Majali-Aziz talks, which were attended by other ministers. Officials who spoke on condition of anonymity said the meeting covered a broad review of Jordanian-Iragi relations.

But according to the diplomatic sources. Mr. Aziz wanted to request Jordan to raise the issue of the sanctions during the Jan. 21 meeting at the White House between His Majesty King Hussein and President Bill Clinton.

"Iraq has met all the requirements of the U.N. resolutions" related to the Gulf war ceasefire in March and April 1991, and, "as such, Iraq believes that the sanctions should be removed as soon as possible," said a diplomatic sources.

"It is a straight-forward move and Mr. Aziz's talks in Amman come in the context of the international efforts exerted by Iraq to end the sanc-tions." added the source. There was no immediate word on how Jordan was responding

to the Iraqi request.

Dr. Majali and Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker as well as several other members of the Cabinet are expected to leave for Washington Tuesday to join King Hussein in his meeting with President

Jordan has repeatedly invited international attention to the suffering of Iraqi people, particularly children and the elderiv, who are not victims of the sanctions, which have deprived the country of external revenues to pay for its people's

The U.N. Security Council is expected to hold a periodic review of the sauctions on Tuesday, but it is not expected to lift the embargo for at least another six months -- a period that U.N. sanctions enforcement officials say is needed to ensure that iong-term monitoring of Iraqi weapon development programme is in place.

Mr. Aziz was originally scheduled to be in New York for consultations with Security Council members this week.

KABUL (Agencies) - Resi-

dents of this bomb-bettered

capital cautiously left base-

ments and makeshift shelters

Sunday morning, taking

advantage of a luli in factional

fighting to stock up on food

But the respite was short-

lived. Witnesses said jets re-turned to the skies in the early

afternoon, bombing the Bala-

hisar Fort on the southern out-

skirts of the city, a stronghold of Uzbek warlord Rashid Dos-

The latest round of fighting

began New Year's Day when

forces loval to General Dos-

tum and Prime Minister Gul-

and fuel.

No real let-up seen in

Afghan power battle

but the plans appeared to have been called off.

Instead, Iraq is focusing on facilitating the mission of U.N. weapon experts' mission in its soil with a view to securing a clean certificate in February or early March to be presented to the Security Council with a request that the sanctions be lifted at the next round of the review of the embargo.

Mr. Aziz's talks with Dr. Majali followed the renewal of an agreement under which Iraq supplies Jordan's oil needs. The Iraqi News Agency (INA) said Saturday that the agreement, signed by Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Walid Asfour and Iraqi Oil Minister Safa Hadi Jawad, covered a broad range of cooperation in the oil industry. No Jordanian confirmation of the INA report was available.

#### Grid-link talks

Dr. Asfour, who began a visit to Baghdad last week, is also attending a meeting with the energy ministers of Iraq. Egypt and Turkey on cooperation in electricity generation and supply.

The meeting, which began in the Iraqi capital on Saturday, is expected to produce technical agreements that will have the way for linking the power grids of the four countries at a cost of \$450 million.

The meeting is expected to produce technical agreements that will enable the four countries working in earnest on a \$450 million project.

The five countries signed cooperation protocols in Amman last year to push ahead with the project, which will not violate U.N. sanctions as it is not expected to be imelemented in Iraq until the end f the decade.

Zaki Uda, Syria's electricity chief, said funding was not a problem as Kuwait-based Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development and the Jedeahbased Islamic Development Bank had pledged to finance the project.

Hassan Mahmoud Sceed. secretary, said energy ministers of the five countries planned to meet in Egypt in April to put the last touches to the

mutual aggreements. He said Egypt and Jordan were already working on linking up their two countries' power networks. He said he hoped the agreements would be fully implemented by 1997.

The project's economic viability is based on an estimated \$2 to \$3 billion savings in annual electricity generation costs after its expected inauguration in 1998.

topple President Burhanuddin

It appears Mr. Rabbani has

been able to hold on to most

government buildings and the

country's strategic military

But the capital has taken a

beating. Tens of thousands of

residents have fled the city,

becoming stranded in poorly-

supplied camps in the bitter

cold outside Jalalabad, about

Entire neighbourhoods in

Kabul have been reduced to

rubble. Most people who re-

mained in the city crowd

together in tiny shelters.

200 kilometres east.

#### Rabin raps Beilin for French criticising Golan colonies in Algeria sovereignty over the Golan mourn

A DEAL: Syrian President Hafez Al Assad (left) and U.S. President Bill Clinton shake hands

murdered

ALG!ERS (Agencies) - France closed diplomatic

offices in Algeria Sunday in

mourning for a French consu-

lar worker killed by gunmen in

a parking lot in central Alger-

day in the country, embroiled

in a two-year-old revolt by

Islamic fundamentalists trying to topple the military-installed

The French high school was

to remain closed Monday. The

Marie Afri, 45, a part-time worker in the visa section, was

shot and killed with two bullets

to the head Saturday between

the consulate and the state-run

Mrs. Afri was the 25th fore-

igner to be killed since last

September, when gunmen

started turning their sights on

iorcigners, who are key to the

One group has warned all

foreign nationals to leave the

country or face death.

Thousands of dependants and

non-essential workers for oil

companies and diplomatic mis-

Mrs. Afri, a mother of three,

was married to an Algerian

and had lived here since 1975.

has condemned the crime as

"odious," Ambassador Ber-

nard Kessedjian asked Prime

Minister Rehda Malek, to find

the killers and put them on

More than 2,000 people

have been killed in the revolt,

sparked by an army coup that

cancelled Algeria's first free

legislative elections, which

Muslim fundamentalists were

Most of the dead have been

police, soldiers and suspected

Islamic militants. But gunmen

have recently targetted fore-

igners, officials, intellectuals

and journalists opposed to fun-

Mrs. Afri's funeral was held

Sunday afternoon in the Al

Alia cemetery in the southeast

of the capital. French sources

said. Her husband called for

the ceremony to be held within

24 hours of her death in line

Mrs. Afri was a native of

Mirecourt, in the Vosges re-

gion of eastern France, and her

with local custom.

parents still live there.

winning.

damentalism.

The French foreign ministry

consulate's visa section

reopens Wednesday.

great mosque.

oil-based economy.

sions have fled.

Sanday is a normal working

woman

"annexed" in 1981, could be placed under Syrian sovereign-

remarks," Mr. Rabin told the weekly cabinet meeting, referring to Mr. Beilin's statement. Mr. Beilin said he was "con-

after the war of June 1967." "But they exist today and we can't just wipe them off the

EDINBURGH (R) — Two Libyans accused of blasting an

lawyers were meeting in Geneva to discuss a compromise

because of a high court trial in Glasgow but would fly to Geneva as soon as possible.

Baset Ali Mohammad Al Meg-

Scots law and Scottish procedure, but with an international panel of judges instead of a jury. The panel would be headed by a Scottish judge.

lawvers had provisionally

Legwell told Scotland on Sunday newspaper." I am satisfied the principles of Scots law would be acceptable."

The reports said Britain's Foreign Office had indicated its provisional approval, but a spokesman said this was not the case. "The two suspects should be surrendered for trial in Scotland or the United States." he said.

Mr. Duff said the plan would require some modification of Scottish legal procedure, which provides for a jury in cases of murder and does not encompass a panel of judges.

"I have said for some time that if the Scottish and American authorities want a trial they will have to be more flexible," Mr. Duff told Reuters on Sunday.

"If this reported plan is a sign of that flexibility then I would welcome it." he added.

Britain and the United States have insisted the accused must surrender for trial in Scotland or America. Tough United Nations sanctions have been imposed on Libya for its refusal to hand them over.

# Clinton dines

#### out in Geneva's old town GENEVA (R) - President Bill Clinton spent the last night

of his first European tour dining out with his family at a 17th-century restaurant in Geneva's old town. Mr. Clinton, on the eve of a meeting with Syrian President Hafez Al-Assad Sunday to discuss Middle East peace, spent more than two hours in "Les Armures" (The Armours) restaurant. Dressed in a jacket and open-neck plaid shirt. Mr. Clinton emerged smiling from the restaurant, waving to a crowd of about 200 who braved the cold night for a glimpse of the president, his wife Hillary and daughter Chelsea. Mr. Clinton then returned to his hotel in the black limousine flown over from Washington for a week-long trip that has included stops in Brussels, Prague, Kiev, Moscow and Minsk. The president are choucroute", a traditional dish of hot cabbage and sausages, and drank local draught beer at the restaurant, according to staff who served his party of 10. "They had a good time and laughed a lot," said waitress Michele Blanc. "I wish that all of our guests were as easy. He was rather timid. She, Hillary, has a lot of class." Hillary and Chelsea sampled traditional Swiss cheese dishes, fondue and raclette (cheese melted over boiled potatoes, accompanied by thin, air-dried beef), and drank tea. The whole family ordered ice cream desserts. "Clinton was very nice and even relaxed," said waiter Pascal Engen. The two-storey restaurant is across a narrow lane from the town hall, near Geneva's Protestant cathedral where the reformation leader John Calvin preached.

#### Cartier to hold 'tribute to India' exhibition -

NEW DELHI (AFP) - The House of Cartier is set to organise an exhibition of its historic pieces of iewellery in India that have been inspired by local designs, flora and wildlife, the Times Of India said Sunday. The displays will include the celebrated "Tutti Frutti"
theme crafted with contrasting stones - the rage of turn-ofthe-century Europe — as well as panther brooches and reversible tiaras, a company official said in Bombay, Louis François Cartier, the founder of the 147-year-old firm and his ' three sons derived many of their classical designs from traditional Indian patterns, Cartier Joailliers representative Olaf Van Cleef told the daily. The Delhi Durbar of 1911. attended by the prince and princess of Wales and members of India's numerous erstwhile royal families, was a parneularly enriching period, he said. The fashion house, a favourite of several billionaire Indian maharajahs who commissioned or bought innumerable pieces of jewellery for themselves, their wives and mistresses, was to India what Fuberge was to Czarist Russia. The Indian garland and the egret were metamorphosed into exquisite diamondstudded creations and the punther, the company trademark, was another Indian derivative, Mr. Van Cleef said. A tiara for Queen Alexandra of Britain was based on the traditional necklaces worn by women in the western state of Gujarat and the Paisley design on scarves and neckties was yet another local legacy.

#### Man held for 15 rapes after 9-year search

NANTERRE, France (AFP) - A 41-year-old man has been charged with 15 rapes he allegedly carried out in a Paris suburb during the last nine years, judicial officials said Saturday. The man, a baggagehandler for Air France, was charged and held in prison but his name was not released to protect his three children. Police arrested the accused-in the southern suburh of Secaux hut did not reveal how the man was caught after nine years of enquiries. All the victims of the rapes were women in their 20k and 30s who lived alone. Police were only able to link the crimes because the rapist smoked heavily and wore clothes that smelt of grease. The rapist was believed to have staked out his victims' apartments before breaking in and lving in wait

#### TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin Heights if Syria offered total peace, with diplomatic rela-Sunday rapped Deputy Fore-ign Minister Yossi Beilin for tions, the opening of borders criticising Israeli settlements on the Golan Heights. and detailed security arrange-Some 12,000 Jews live in 33 settlements on the Golan, which is home also to 16,000

Druze.

Syrian President Hafez Al

Assad held talks with U.S.

President Bill Clinton in Gene-

va on Sunday aimed at break-ing the deadlock in the bilater-

al Middle East peace talks. Hundreds of Jewish settlers

marked the summit by setting

fire to tyres and blocking a

crossroads in protest at a possi-ble Israeli withdrawal from the

They shouted "we won't

come down from the Golan" as

police broke up the demonstra-

tion near the town of Katzerin

Mr. Rabin of betraying a pre-election pledge in 1992 not to

Police and demonstrators

exchanged blows when the

police tried to push them to the

side of a road near Kalzerin.

The demonstrators accused

and made arrests.

give up the Heights.

prior to their summit in Geneva on Sunday (AFP

Mr. Beilin suggested on Friday that some of the Jewish settlements on the Heights. seized from Syria in 1967 and

"These are not intelligent

vinced that it was a mistake to create these settlements on the Golan or in other territories

map," he said. Environment Minister Yossi

Sarid supported Mr. Beilin on Sunday, saying his views were backed by most members of

the government.
"For 20 years people like me

have been saying the settlements are a mistake, because they are an obstacle on the path to peace," Mr. Sarid told

On Saturday, Mr. Sarid said

"Of course the tension is rising here," Eli Malka, head of the Golan settlements coun-

# Libyan suspects could go on trial at the Hague

American airliner out of the sky over Lockerbie. Scotland five years ago with the loss of 270 lives could be tried in the Netherlands, one of their lawyers said on Sunday. Alastair Duff said defence

worked out between British and Libyan government inter-He said he could not attend

The plan provides for Abdul

rahi and Al Amin Khalifa Fhimah to be tried at the Hague, seat of the International Court The trial would be under

Media reports said defence

"In principle we would say yes." Libyan lawyer Ibrahim

#### Somali clan elders reach peace agreement Imam Mahmoud told reporters and Sunday and exchanged imam during the talks Sunday,

MOGADISHU (AFP) -Elders of Mogadishu's main warring clans signed a peace agreement Sunday after three days of talks aimed at stopping renewed factional fighting in Mogadishu after U.S. forces withdraw. The talks brought together

176 religious leaders and "ugases." or traditional chiefs. from the clans of warlord Mohammad Farah Aidced and his enemy, self-styled President Ali Mahdi Mohammad. Several other smaller clans were also represented.

But the warlords themselves did not attend the meeting. chaired by a prominent Islamic leader, the imam of Hirab. Mahmoud Omer, revered both by General Aideed's Habr-Gedir and Mr. Ali Mahdi's Abgai subcians. This is the beginning of a

peaceful settlement in Somalia

and Allah wili support us,"

after the agreement. The accord, which calls for

an end to the division of Mogadishu into sectors controlled by the two warlords, and the return of property looted in the civil war, was signed at the Kah Hotel in Mr. Ali Mahdi's north Mogadishu enclave. "I believe this meeting was

fruitful because the people are fed up with war. Ali Mandi and Aideed are clansmen and so they must follow all the agreements reached by their clars." said the imam, wearing a redand-gold embroidered tunic and white turban with black sunglasses.

Previous peace aconds between the warlords, however, have come to nothing, and United Nations-brokered talks in Addis Ababa broke up without agreement last month. But Italian Ambassador

Mario Scialoja, who visited the

expressed optimism. "I am confident that this agreement between the Habr

Gedit and the Abgal will lead to reconciliation between the two clans," he said before driving away with an Italian military escort. This could lead to a politic-

al agreement," Mr. Scialoja said, "in another few weeks we might reach a breakthrough. He stressed that the meet-

ing, planned by the imam for at least three months and partly funded by the United Nations. had involved no political leaders, but was the first traditional gathering of so many influential clan chieftains in Mogadishu since factional fighting erupted after the 1991 overthrow of dictator Mohammad Siad Barre.

The clan elders, who sat cross-legged on earpers during the talks on Thursday, Friday

Korans at the close of the meeting, also agreed to enforce Islamic law (Sharia) under which thieves have their hands cut off. Armed robbery is rife in

Somalia, without a government or any authority other than the gun or the United Nations, which has more than 25,000 peacekeepers in the country but has failed to restore law and order.

The agreement also calls for a 19-member committee made up of seven representatives of each of the two main warring clans, and five members from the smaller Sheikhal group, to be formed in seven days to draw up a charter of laws. A separate 15-member subcommittee is to enforce the peace agreement.

But the elders cautioned that bitter political divisions renumed between the warring clan-based factions led by Gen. Aideed and Mr. Ali Malidi, particularly over the presence of the U.N. troops. Gen. Aideed wants them to

leave but Mr. Ali Mahdi insists they must stay to avert renewed civil war after U.S. forces leave in March. The elders also admitted

that difficulties might arise in returning property looted or seized during the war between Gen. Aideed and Mr. Ali Mahdi that reduced much of central Mogadishu to rubble before the first American troops landed in Dec. 1992. U.N. officials said they had

deliberately played a behindthe-scenes role in the clan talks because they wanted to lessen suspicions among Gen. Aideed's clansmen who accused the U.N. of siding against them at previous peace

Volume 11 ion proteste Arad releas NOON (AP) - HE temonstrators ga sunday to protest th of an Israeli na re plane was shot re plane in 1980. sie may be alive and f Iranian Revo Bush based in eas Ron Arad must ikon Arad must getten during thes getten during thes got Maddle East and organiser ik said organiser ik we've got to som that he's still must released 2.00 yound released 2.0 one for each ds appoints, she so

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